

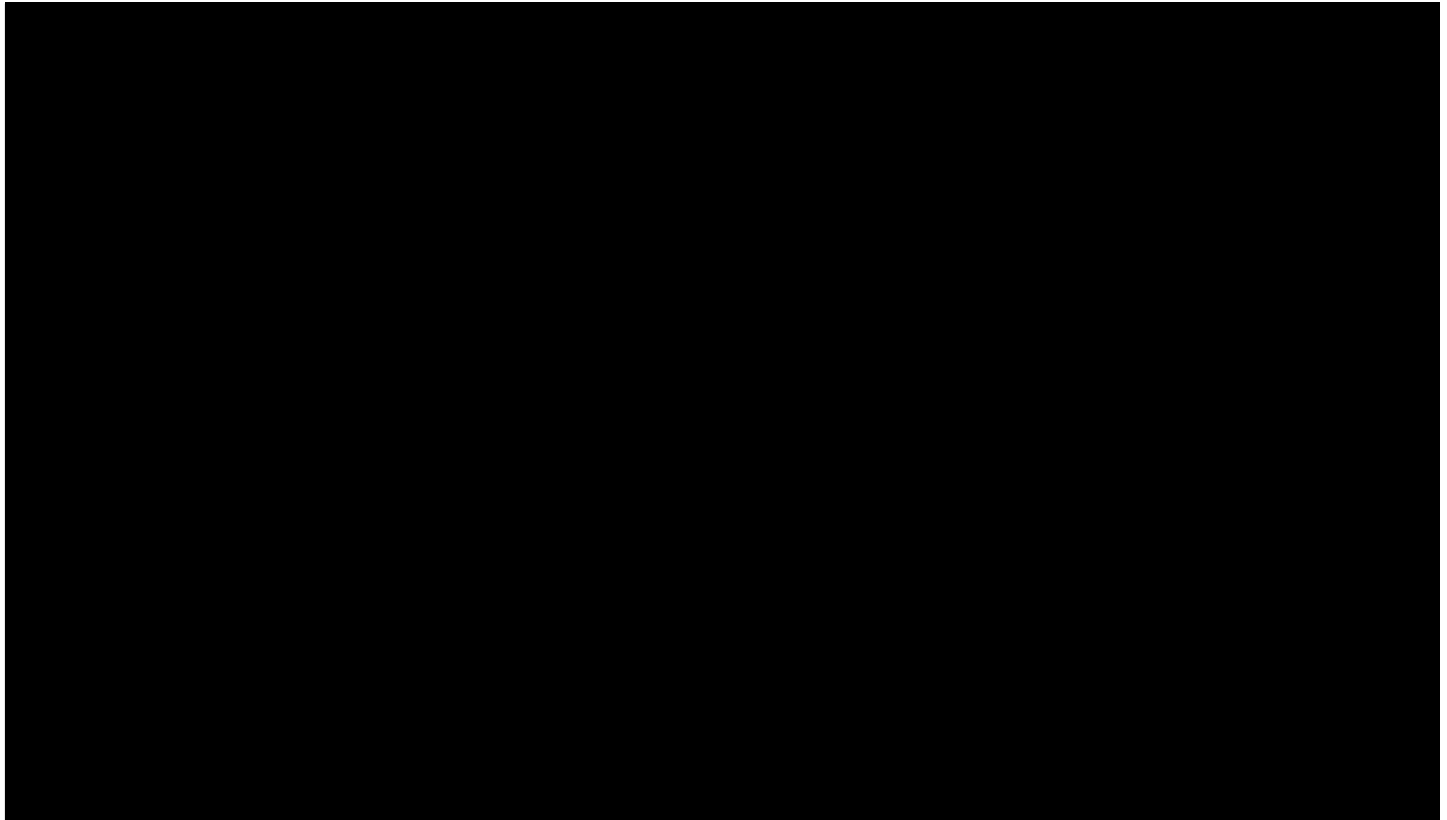
Re: GEO Bargaining

Wesley Townsend <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/1/2019 10:32 PM

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>;

Chancellor Amiridis,

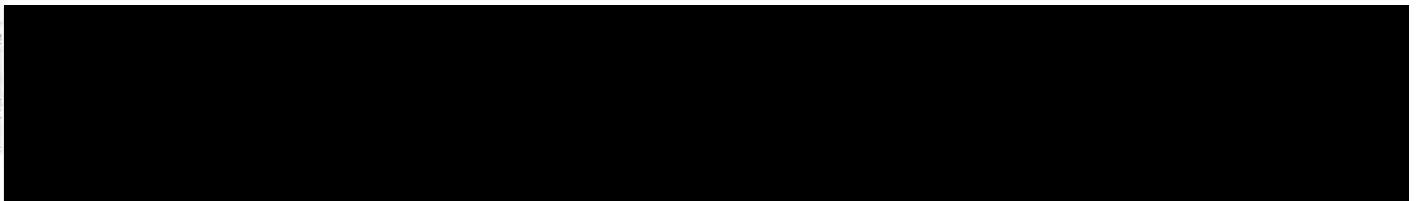


Regards,
Wesley Townsend
UIC GEO Bargaining Chair

P.S. I saw that President Killeen commented on your raise UIC's visibility when he granted your 75k bonus this year. You've certainly continued your excellence on that front.

On Mon, Apr 1, 2019 at 6:29 PM Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu> wrote:

Dear Wes,



Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis

Michael D. Amiridis

Chancellor

University of Illinois at Chicago

601 S Morgan St

2833 University Hall, MC 102

Chicago, IL 60607

(312) 413-3350



From: Wesley Townsend <[REDACTED]>

Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:57 AM

To: UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>

Subject: GEO Bargaining

Dear Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser,



Regards,

Wes Townsend

UIC GEO Bargaining Chair

Re:

McGinnis Gonzalez, Sherri

Tue 3/19/2019 4:45 PM

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>; Ginsburg, Michael H <ginsburg@uillinois.edu>; Parker, Janet <japarker@uic.edu>; Robinson, Keino <keinor@uillinois.edu>; Colley, Karen J <karenc@uic.edu>; Kragon, Steven P <skragon@uic.edu>; Levant, Amy <amy@uillinois.edu>; Hofman, David Jonathan <hofman@uic.edu>; Riley, Thomas <thriley@uillinois.edu>;

Cc: Barish, Robert <rbarish@uic.edu>; Tolliver, J. Rex <jrex@uic.edu>; Mintle, Theresa Erin <mintlet@uic.edu>; Coronado, John <jcoronad@uic.edu>; Alsterda, John <alsterda@uillinois.edu>;

Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez shared some articles:



WBZ 91.5 FM Chicago • USA • Mar 19 • 04:25 pm

University Of Illinois At Chicago Grad Students Strike Over Wages And Fees

assistants at the *University of Illinois* at Chicago who say they struggle to live on the university's wages declared a *strike* on Tuesday.



Belleville News Democrat • USA • Mar 19 • 03:00 pm

BEVIL NEWS-DEM

Graduate teaching assistants strike at U of Illinois-Chicago

say they plan to *strike* indefinitely. Union leaders say the workers "live on the edge of poverty." *UIC* officials say the *strike* "is not in



Chicago Tribune • USA • Mar 19 • 12:50 pm

Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us'

to care about us." The *strike* at the Near West Side campus bears similarities to a February 2018 *strike* at *University of Illinois* at Urbana-





WCIU, The U • USA • Mar 19 • 09:38 am

**UIC Grad Workers Go On Indefinite Strike**

, but it's just not enough. Tuesday morning, a *strike* will begin outside several buildings on *UIC*'S east campus. There will be a unified



Chicago Sun-Times • USA • Mar 19 • 09:12 am

**UIC teaching assistants to go on strike**

at a U of I campus went on *strike*. Last February, grad workers at the Urbana-Champaign campus went on *strike* for nearly two weeks before



CBS Chicago • USA • Mar 19 • 06:55 am

**UIC Graduate Teachers To Strike Tuesday Morning**

More than 1,500 teaching and graduate assistants at *UIC* are without a contract and are going on *strike* for higher pay after the union failed



WGN-TV • USA • Mar 19 • 06:25 am

**UIC graduate workers begin strike Tuesday**

video CHICAGO -- Graduate workers at the *University of Illinois*Chicago plan to walk out on *strike* Tuesday. The workers have been without



ABC7Chicago.com • USA • Mar 19 • 05:26 am

**UIC teaching assistants, graduate assistants go on strike**

1,500 teaching assistants and graduate assistants at the *University of Illinois* Chicago have gone on *strike* Tuesday. Share: Share Tweet



The Chicago Crusader • USA • Mar 19 • 03:56 am

**UIC Graduate Workers Begin Indefinite Strike for a Fair Contract**

been working without a contract since last fall. "*UIC* United Faculty stands in solidarity with the *GEO* in its fight to win a fair and just

From: Michael Amiridis <amiridis@uic.edu>

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 4:32 PM

To: Susan Poser <sposer@uic.edu>, "Ginsburg, Michael H" <ginsburg@uillinois.edu>, "Parker, Janet" <japarker@uic.edu>, "Robinson, Keino" <keinor@uillinois.edu>, "Colley, Karen J" <karenc@uic.edu>, "Kragon, Steven P" <skragon@uic.edu>, "Levant, Amy" <amy@uillinois.edu>, "Hofman, David Jonathan" <hofman@uic.edu>, Thomas Riley <thriley@uillinois.edu>

Cc: "Barish, Robert" <rbarish@uic.edu>, Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez <smcginn@uic.edu>, "Tolliver, J. Rex" <jrex@uic.edu>, "Mintle, Theresa Erin" <mintlet@uic.edu>, "Coronado, John" <jcoronad@uic.edu>, "Alsterda, John" <alsterda@uillinois.edu>

Subject: <no subject>

Tribune story has been posted and I think it's pretty balanced.

M.

Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St
2833 University Hall, MC 102
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 413-3350



UIC Daily Clips 3-19-19

Public and Government Affairs <newstips@uic.edu>

Tue 3/19/2019 4:30 PM

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;



MEDIA COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

March 19, 2019

[UIC Featured](#)[Experts Quoted](#)[Alumni / Students](#)[Broadcast](#)[News Releases](#)[News Center](#)[UIC Science Blog](#)[Contact Us](#)

[NOTE: Video content in Broadcast section below is copyrighted material and restricted to internal use within the University of Illinois at Chicago. Downloading or posting to websites, or sharing links outside of UIC, is prohibited.]

UIC FEATURED

Chicago's new mayor will be a black woman. Can she bridge the city's divides?

Daily Chronicle - March 19, 2019

stock was abandoned, according to a 2017 study by the **University of Illinois at Chicago's** Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.



Prescription Drugs That Can Cause Depression

Newsmax - March 19, 2019

and anxiety can cause depression. A study conducted by the **University of Illinois at Chicago** and published in the Journal of the American



Materials Could Delay Frost up to 300 Times Longer Than Existing Anti-Icing Coatings - Science and Technology Research News

Science and Technology Research News - March 19, 2019

frequent reapplication," said Rukmava Chatterjee, a doctoral **student** in the **UIC College** of Engineering and the first author of the paper.



Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us'

Chicago Tribune - March 19, 2019

Graduate student employees at **University of Illinois at Chicago** went on strike Tuesday after more than a year of contract negotiations



UIC teaching assistants to go on strike

Chicago Sun-Times - March 19, 2019

More than 1,500 teaching assistants and graduate assistants at the **University of Illinois at Chicago** planned to go on strike Tuesday. The



UIC graduate workers begin strike Tuesday

WGN-TV - March 19, 2019

to watch this video CHICAGO -- Graduate workers at the **University of Illinois Chicago** plan to walk out on strike Tuesday. The workers have



UIC Graduate Teachers To Strike Tuesday Morning

CBS Chicago - March 19, 2019

university fees and appointment policies. The **UIC** Graduate Employees Organization represents more than 1,500 teaching and graduate **students**.



UIC Grad Workers Go On Indefinite Strike

WCIU, The U - March 19, 2019

UIC graduate workers and assistants reach no deal with the **university** administration on a new labor contract. They've been trying to



UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial

Telemundo Chicago - March 19, 2019

UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial



Code Blue Celebrates 30 Years of Safety And Security

MassTransitmag.com - March 19, 2019

communication solutions. Code Blue was founded when the **University of Illinois at Chicago** selected our new signature design from several



Niles hosts Illinois author today about drug addiction

Vindy.com - March 19, 2019

who is also professor of clinical pediatrics at the **University of Illinois** College of Medicine in **Chicago** and author of the book *The Mystery*



'Hip-Hop Poet' Kevin Coval Discusses Work April 9 at COD

Illinois Patch.com - March 19, 2019

festival in Chicago, Coval teaches hip-hop aesthetics at The **University of Illinois-Chicago**. He is the author and editor more than a dozen



New Edgewater Cafe's Owners Plan to Tackle Chicago Youth Unemployment

Eater Chicago - March 18, 2019

at a rate of 70 percent, according to research from the **University of Illinois at Chicago**, and a whopping \$9.5 billion in Illinois tax



EXPERTS QUOTED

Long-Term Use of Hormone Therapy Linked to Increased Alzheimer's Risk - Today's Geriatric Medicine

Today's Geriatric Medicine - March 19, 2019

Hospital in Boston, and Pauline Maki, PhD, of the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, query whether the findings should change the view that



Ald. Roderick Sawyer Vows To Make His Case To Voters After Being Forced Into Runoff By Challenger In 6th Ward

Block Club Chicago - March 19, 2019

to an analysis of divided City Council votes from the *University of Illinois Chicago* Political Science professor and former 44th Ward Ald.



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

ER Doctor Killed In Mercy Hospital Shooting Honored With Scholarship Fund

Vibe - March 19, 2019

a first-year medical student in the Urban Health Program at the *University of Illinois*, The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports. O'Neal's former



Scholarship named for physician killed in Chicago hospital shooting

Becker's Hospital Review - March 18, 2019

Several *alumni* of the *UIC College* of Medicine in *Chicago* have raised funds to create a scholarship fund to honor Tamara O'Neal, MD, the



UIC Local Spotlight: An Interview with M2 Cafe

Spoon University - March 19, 2019

get that stuff anywhere else when they work nearby. We especially get a lot of *UIC students*, to whom we do give a 10% discount. I think they



BROADCAST

FOX 32 News at Nine

WFLD-CHI (FOX) - March 19, 2019

>>>...At UIC for victims of the New Zealand mosque attacks.>>>



WGN-AM (Radio) at March 19th 2019 12:30 AM

WGN-AM (Radio) - March 19, 2019

Striking workers will be forming picket lines later this morning outside several buildings at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus...>>>



NEWS RELEASES

UIC symposium looks at the arts, politics of architecture

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019



UIC student honored with national civic fellowship

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019



Meltwater - 225 Bush St Suite 1000, San Francisco, California 94104 USA

[To unsubscribe from this newsletter Click Here](#)

Letter of Support for Graduate Employees Organization from SAAH Faculty

Therese Quinn <thereseq@uic.edu>

Wed 3/27/2019 8:44 AM

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>; Michaels, Walter Benn <wbm@uic.edu>;

1 attachments (135 KB)

SAAH Letter of Support for GEO 2019.pdf;

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Dean Poster, and Interim Dean Michaels:

Please find attached a letter of support for UIC's Graduate Employees Organization from School of Art & Art History faculty.

Sincerely, Therese Quinn

--
Therese Quinn (My gender pronouns: she/her/hers - [What's this?](#))

Director, Museum and Exhibition Studies

University of Illinois at Chicago

929 West Harrison Street, MC 201

Chicago IL 60607-7039

(312) 413-2463

Museum and Exhibition Studies: www.flickr.com/photos/muse-uic/
http://artandarthistory.uic.edu/uic_masters_muse + issuu.com/museuic

Fwd: Museums Journal @fwdmuseums + <http://fwdmuseumsjournal.weebly.com/>

Fwd: Museums Journal 1 - Inaugurations 2016: <https://tinyurl.com/y7dy7ooj>

Fwd: Museums Journal 2 - Small 2017: <https://tinyurl.com/y84f99vj>

Call for Submissions - Fwd Museums 2019: Death to Museums: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8xpzf9>

This is a calm inbox: Email is checked several times each day, but generally not before 9:00 AM or after 5:00 PM or on the weekend.

[OFFICIALX_STAFF] UIC, GEO reach tentative agreement to end strike

Staff Official Announcements <OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU> on behalf of
Official Announcement <official_owner@uic.edu>

Fri 4/5/2019 4:59 PM

To:OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU <OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU>;

[Read this message online](#)



Dear campus community,

We are pleased to announce that the University and the Graduate Employees Organization have reached tentative agreement on a final contract, ending a strike that began March 19. The agreement is subject to ratification and approval by both sides. Details of the agreement will be provided after ratification.

We have always valued our graduate employees and their contributions to our academic mission. This agreement will help ensure a solid foundation for the future of our graduate workers while supporting all students as they pursue their educational goals at Chicago's public research university.

We want to thank the University's negotiating team and the GEO for their dedication and diligence.

Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis
Chancellor



Susan Poser
Provost

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

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Re: [uicgeo] Rally at Noon, Bargaining Strike Settlement at 1:00

Mintle, Theresa Erin

Fri 4/5/2019 12:11 PM

To: Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>; Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;

Got it.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>

Date: 4/5/19 12:08 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios" <amiridis@uic.edu>, "Mintle, Theresa Erin" <mintlet@uic.edu>

Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] Rally at Noon, Bargaining Strike Settlement at 1:00

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: El-Amin, Aisha

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2019 11:52:10 AM

To: Poser, Susan; Ginsburg, Michael H

Subject: FW: [uicgeo] Rally at Noon, Bargaining Strike Settlement at 1:00

Aisha

On 4/5/19, 11:48 AM, "geo-bargainunit on behalf of Dawn Tefft" <[REDACTED]>
on behalf of [REDACTED] > wrote:

[REDACTED]

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at geo@uic-geo.net

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

NEWS AND TRENDS, April 5, 2019

Kirsten Ruby <kruby@illinois.edu>

Fri 4/5/2019 8:43 AM

To:Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;

[Click here to see this online](#)

University of Illinois System Office for University Relations Media Advisory

NEWS AND TRENDS, April 5, 2019

- 1 – U of I officials defend need for increased state funding, SJR, Apr 4
- 2 – Legislators ask UI to help cover shortfall in College Illinois program, NG, Apr 5
- 3 – Deal reached with U of Illinois-Chicago; strike continues, WGN, Apr 5
- 4 – UIC Researchers Aim to Detect Brain Disease Earlier with \$1.4M Grant, WTTW, Apr 4
- 5 – Journalism tries to adapt, Illinois Times, Apr 4
- 6 – Peoria Innovation Alliance will work to spark growth through remembering the past, WEEK, Apr 4
- 7 – Judge denies bid for MBA from UI student dismissed after sex-assault accusations, NG, Apr 5
- 8 – Higher education advocates find new optimism at Illinois Capitol, Herald&Review, Apr 4
- 9 – Tutors, private test prep coaches, homework therapists. Rich kids have all the academic advantages money can buy. But at what cost?, Tribune, Apr 5
- 10 – Illinois projects \$100K profit from beer sales at sporting events in 1st year, Tribune, Apr 4
- 11 – Did Babe Ruth's legendary 1919 Tampa home run really go 587 feet?, KTVU, Apr 4

1 – U of I officials defend need for increased state funding

The University of Illinois system is seeking a 16.5 percent increase in funding, which would help the campuses with faculty recruitment and retention and financial aid to encourage high school students to stay in state, officials said Thursday.

The system is seeking \$692.5 million in operating funds, according to Timothy Killeen, the U of I president.

And although the request is a double-digit increase over last year, if the dollars are adjusted for inflation, it is still below the funding level for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, he noted.

"We do feel that the state should be investing more in public higher education," Killeen told the committee, adding that university officials were "delighted" to see Gov. J.B. Pritzker put an emphasis on education in his budget proposal.

The U of I is also requesting \$722.4 million for capital needs, including repairs and renovations across the system. Some would also go toward upgrading libraries at each campus.

...

<https://www.sj-r.com/news/20190404/u-of-i-officials-defend-need-for-increased-state-funding>

See also: https://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/education/u-of-i-system-seeks-funding-hike-from-state/article_17463ce7-6dda-5d6a-bf13-b8b2ca36813f.html

2 – Legislators ask UI to help cover shortfall in College Illinois program

Some state senators want the University of Illinois and other public universities to help cover a projected shortfall in the state's prepaid-college-tuition program as part of a state bailout, to avert bigger financial problems down the road.

At an appropriations hearing on the UI's fiscal 2020 budget request, Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign, asked UI President Tim Killeen for the university's help in addressing a \$308 million unfunded liability for the College Illinois program.

For a number of reasons — including low investment returns and a drop-off in sales during the Great Recession — the program won't be able to meet all of its obligations starting in 2026.

Bennett said the other big factor was tuition inflation, citing "massive" UI tuition increases from 2000 to 2014, before a five-year tuition freeze took effect. The UI's base tuition rate rose from roughly \$3,700 to \$12,000 in that period.

That made it hard for College Illinois to earn an investment return large enough to cover future tuition costs, he said.

...

Killeen acknowledged Bennett's point, noting that he wasn't president in the early 2000s, but also said the tuition increases came in response to steeply declining state support during that period.

Another factor was the state's guaranteed-tuition law, which keeps tuition flat for four years for each incoming class, he said. The UI increased freshman rates each year in response.

"I've been told our university had no input in investments" or contract pricing for College Illinois, Killeen added.

He said the UI can't absorb a \$300 million shortfall but is willing to work with legislators on that and other underlying structural problems.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-05/legislators-ask-ui-help-cover-shortfall-college-illinois-program.html>

3 – Deal reached with U of Illinois-Chicago; strike continues

A union representing graduate student employees at the University of Illinois at Chicago says they're staying on strike despite reaching a tentative contract agreement with the school.

The union announced Thursday night that the 3-year agreement will help ensure more financial stability for graduate workers. It says, however, the administration's bargaining team didn't have the authority negotiate on issues such as how graduate workers can make up lost pay for their time on strike.

The university confirmed to the Chicago Sun-Times that an agreement was reached but declined further comment.

The Chicago Tribune reports at least 550 classes taught by assistants were canceled from March 19 to March 22, early in the walkout by members of the Graduate Employees Organization.

...

<https://wgntv.com/2019/04/05/deal-reached-with-u-of-illinois-chicago-strike-continues/>

See also: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/business/university-illinois-chicago-uic-teaching-graduate-assistants-strike/>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-at-chicago-strike-classes-20190404-story.html>

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/uic-grad-workers-tentative-contract-but-strike-continues/6778bbee-befa-45b8-a2e6-3d26e2e55072>

4 – UIC Researchers Aim to Detect Brain Disease Earlier with \$1.4M Grant

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago are developing imaging techniques that will allow them to study small changes in the retina that could indicate the early stages of brain diseases.

Their work is being funded by a \$1.4 million, four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. The research will look at how changes in the connections between nerves and blood vessels in the retina are related to the development of eye diseases, like age-related macular degeneration, and brain diseases, like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

"Many times, the only way we can tell there is a disease is once clinical symptoms appear, but the disease process starts long before that," said Xincheng Yao, a professor of bioengineering, ophthalmology and visual sciences at UIC who's leading the research.

Researchers believe the imaging technique known as the optical coherence tomography and OCT angiography (OCTA) technique could be used to discover diseases earlier by detecting minute changes other imaging techniques cannot.

...

<https://news.wttw.com/2019/04/04/uic-researchers-aim-detect-brain-disease-earlier-14m-grant>

5 – Journalism tries to adapt

At one point in time, the newspaper business was seen as a "cash cow," says Jon Whitney, Illinois Press Foundation board member and publisher of Carroll County Review.

But there's been a sharp decline in print advertising revenue since 2006, when it peaked at \$49.3 billion, according to a 2018 report from Pew Research. By 2016, print media advertising revenue had declined to \$18.3 billion, less than half of what it had been generating just a decade earlier.

The time of locally owned newspapers is almost a thing of the past with most publications now part of chains with corporate owners who care primarily about the bottom line.

The revenue concerns at the top of media corporations have trickled down to those working in skeleton newsrooms across the country, where sources in this story have seen their colleagues and friends lose jobs due to layoffs, leaving them to wonder if they would be next.

...

University of Illinois Springfield offers a master's level Public Affairs Reporting program, which is similar to University of Kansas' advanced media undergraduate course. The UIS program has been in existence since 1972 but recently has needed to reduce the number of students admitted to the program due to the declining number of Statehouse bureaus.

Wheeler, who now serves as the PAR adviser since retiring from the Chicago Sun-Times in August of 1993, said the program is committed to placing students in a Statehouse reporting internship for real-world experience.

...

<https://illinoistimes.com/article-21095-journalism-tries-to-adapt.html>

6 – Peoria Innovation Alliance will work to spark growth through remembering the past

Innovation is one of those popular buzz words you hear all the time. But what it means to some greater Peoria businesses is creating more than just buzz. Alliance Founder and Executive Director Jake Hamann says many of these cutting edge business are unheard of in the community. "One is called Enduvo, one's called Natural Fiber Welding, another is called Bump Boxes. When I talk to citizens here they don't even know they exist, but a lot of them are here in our backyard," explained Hamann.

Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis says innovation can mean a lot of things, but for businesses in Central Illinois, it means learning from the past. "It's the ability to look at the new and better ways to provide that to the consumers that will create business and create jobs," said Ardis. He said there is a lot to be proud of in the Peoria community. "From the Ag Lab to a lot of the R and D (research and development) being done by Caterpillar, and the college of medicine and all of our hospitals. We're talking a billion dollars a year being spent in the Peoria area," explained Ardis.

...

<https://week.com/news/top-stories/2019/04/04/peoria-innovation-alliance-will-work-to-spark-growth-through-remembering-the-past/>

7 – Judge denies bid for MBA from UI student dismissed after sex-assault accusations

U.S. District Judge Colin Bruce has denied an emergency request to grant a University of Illinois MBA degree to a former student accused of sexual assault.

The student filed a federal lawsuit last month arguing his due-process rights had been violated during the UI's investigation and said he faces termination at his job in Boston if he doesn't have his degree by April 15.

The student, an Indian citizen identified only as "John Doe," had also been planning on having his employer sponsor him for his visa, which expires June 30.

He was accused by another MBA student of sexual assault after he graduated in May 2018, but before he had received his degree.

A panel found him responsible for sexual assault, and after two appeals, he was eventually dismissed from the UI.

Bruce denied his emergency request this week, concluding that the lawsuit was improperly filed.

The main problem, Bruce said, is that Doe is suing the UI Board of Trustees as an entity, rather than as individuals.

Under the 11th Amendment to the Constitution, people can't sue a state, though lawsuits against individual state officials are allowed if they're violating federal law.

Bruce also took issue with the proposed remedy of granting Doe an MBA degree.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-05/judge-denies-bid-mba-ui-student-dismissed-after-sex-assault-accusations.html>

8 – Higher education advocates find new optimism at Illinois Capitol

There was much ado about higher education in the Illinois Capitol Thursday, as lawmakers discussed funding increases for higher education, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a bill to strengthen a financial aid program and higher education advocates rallied on the Capitol rotunda.

Pritzker signed House Bill 2505, allowing universities to retain unused funding for the Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education, or AIM HIGH, program. The program helps students who meet income and performance requirement obtain financial aid at state universities.

Pritzker signed the bill, which was passed during the previous General Assembly, at Southeast High School in Springfield.

"After many years of a declining percentage of Illinois students choosing to stay in state, AIM HIGH is helping us change that dynamic, making it more affordable for students and their families to choose to stay here," Pritzker said in remarks released by his office after the signing.

...

https://herald-review.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/higher-education-advocates-find-new-optimism-at-illinois-capitol/article_48b93614-a1b6-55ff-a727-c86c338c5558.html

See also: <https://www.daily-chronicle.com/2019/04/04/gov-pritzkers-aim-high-legislation-strengthens-aim-high-grant-program-increase-enrollment/arf7rj0/>

9 – Tutors, private test prep coaches, homework therapists. Rich kids have all the academic advantages money can buy. But at what cost?

It's 3:30 on a Wednesday afternoon in north suburban Glencoe, one of the wealthiest towns in the U.S. The quiet, brick-lined streets of the business district are about to get louder. Two blocks away, the town's middle school has just let out, and packs of kids are pouring into Starbucks for a \$4 lemonade or hot chocolate. But a few are headed to the town's newest business, The House, which calls itself the world's first tutoring lounge.

The \$250 per month cost buys membership to this hip hangout with on-demand tutoring. Like any private club, it has rules. Members may bring a guest. All are welcome, except one group — parents. With music thumping and a fun pop-art wall mural at the entrance, it doesn't resemble anyone's stereotype of a tutoring center. Sixth- through 12th-graders are gathering on colorful floor pillows, swinging chairs, modern comfy couches and glass-walled rooms with fireplaces where they can study together. Come 4:30 p.m., the music is turned down, and a team of tutors starts roaming about to see who needs help, similar to an Apple Genius Bar. Five- to 10-minute tutoring is included in the monthly membership. Kids who need more time can book half-hour increments for \$50 at the touch of a button, on a custom-designed app called homework.sucks. Clearly these people understand kids.

Lisa Micele also understands kids. As director of college counseling at the University of Illinois Laboratory High School in Urbana, she worries that the big business of tutoring (some analysts predict it will reach \$227 billion globally by 2022) may keep kids from being schooled in other important life lessons. "We all want kids to take pride in their learning and be equipped with healthy coping skills when they fail. When they rely on outside help to keep them organized, push them ahead and coach them on every test, I worry about their self-advocacy and time management skills," says Micele. "I also worry about a student's positive self-concept of themselves. I had a student tell me they weren't proud of their high SAT score because they only accomplished it through someone else's help."

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/sc-fam-wealthy-kids-education-advantages-0409-story.html>

10 – Illinois projects \$100K profit from beer sales at sporting events in 1st year

Athletics officials at the University of Illinois say the decision to sell beer in general seating areas at football and basketball games could net the school over \$100,000 in the first year.

Illini officials announced Tuesday that beer can be purchased at several stands around Memorial Stadium starting this fall. The News-Gazette reports that associate athletic director Marty Kaufmann notes overhead costs will likely lower profits in year one.

Alcoholic beverages will still be sold in premium seating areas.

A share of sales will pay for additional security at games, although Kaufmann expects fewer alcohol-related incidents. He says stadium beer sales should deter binge drinking during tailgating and discourage fans from smuggling beer inside.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/college/ct-spt-illinois-beer-sales-profit-20190404-story.html>

See also: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/illini-officials-project-100k-profit-in-stadium-beer-sales-508122731.html>

11 – Did Babe Ruth's legendary 1919 Tampa home run really go 587 feet?

On the 100th anniversary of Babe Ruth's historic home run in Tampa, several scholars are asking if it ever went the 587 feet quoted on a billboard in the spot it supposedly landed, near at the University of Tampa.

If you were one of 4,300 at Plant Field on April 4, 1919, at what is now UT, you would have seen Babe Ruth, his mammoth swing, and maybe the farthest homer ever hit.

"They were just astonished by how far it went," said Babe Ruth scholar Jane Leavy.

Back in 1919, there was a racetrack near the Tampa Hotel with a ballfield in the middle.

"It went over the rail of the racetrack and just kept going," Leavy said of Ruth's legendary home run.

The right-fielder showed reporters where it landed. The Boston Globe then marched off 189 paces of slightly more than three feet. They called the homer a "boost" and said it was certainly more than 540 feet. Leavy says estimates range from 540 feet to 625 feet.

"Nobody had seen anything like this before," said Leavy. "Babe Ruth was inventing and announcing power baseball with that swing."

...

University of Illinois professor Alan Nathan says under optimal conditions, but without wind, the farthest a big-league homer can go is just under 500 feet. That requires the ball to be hit at an exit velocity of 120 miles per hour. That figure is well beyond most recorded today.

"Given a dispute between science and mythology, I am going to take the science," said Nathan.

...

<http://www.ktvu.com/sports/did-babe-ruth-s-1919-tampa-home-run-really-go-587-feet->

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Michael Amiridis on Instagram: <http://chancellor.uic.edu/instagram-feed/>

Robert Jones on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illinichancellor/>

Susan Koch's Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/ChancellorKoch>

Twitter: [@UofILSystem](#) | [@illinois_alma](#) | [@thisisUIC](#) | [@UISedu](#)

Facebook: [@uillinois.edu](#) | [@illinois.edu](#) | [@uic.edu](#) | [@uis.edu](#)

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NEWS AND TRENDS, April 4, 2019

Kirsten Ruby <kruby@illinois.edu>

Thu 4/4/2019 8:44 AM

To:Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;

[Click here to see this online](#)

University of Illinois System Office for University Relations Media Advisory

NEWS AND TRENDS, April 4, 2019

- 1 – UI president: Boosting university's budget would pay off for state, NG, Apr 4
- 2 – University of Illinois Day celebrated in the Capitol, Fox Illinois, Apr 3
- 3 – Experts Gather To Discuss Link Between Poverty & Health, Explore Solutions, Illinois Public Media, Apr 3
- 4 – UI's decision on drinks at games about more than just beer money, NG, Apr 3
- 5 – Illinois Medical District unveils big plans for the future, Curbed Chicago, Apr 3
- 6 – Detecting eye and brain disease earlier, MDLinx, Apr 4
- 7 – Illinois farmers have history of growing hemp, AgriNews, Apr 3
- 8 – GEO petitions against UI support for ICE, DI, Apr 4
- 9 – With the admissions scandal in the news, we asked 10 Chicago CEOs: Does where you go to college really matter?, Tribune, Apr 3

1 – UI president: Boosting university's budget would pay off for state

University of Illinois President Tim Killeen called investment in higher education "part of the solution" to the UI's well-documented fiscal issues during its annual lobby day Wednesday at the state Capitol.

Killeen, who is scheduled to address a Senate appropriations committee today, spoke with reporters about the university's \$600 million operating budget request and \$700 million capital-projects request.

"We're looking for a state budget that will take us back close to the 2015 fiscal year levels," Killeen said, adding that the \$600 million would be a 16 percent increase over last year's funding.

He called fiscal 2016 — the costliest year in a multiyear state budget impasse under former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner — the "year that never happened," noting the university system saw a \$400 million funding cut then.

Funding is "nowhere near where it was in the early 2000s at the turn of the century," Killeen said. "We're looking to get back to, I would say, normal, in terms of the state's

support for higher ed."

Still, the UI came out stronger than most state schools in that span, Killeen said. The university system's 86,000 students across three campuses represent "significant growth" from before the impasse, and he said the increased funding would help add professors to accommodate the growth.

Despite the impasse, Killeen said, the university has frozen tuition rates the past five years in an effort to keep education affordable and accessible.

While the \$600 million request would serve operational purposes and allow the university to focus on affordability, Killeen said, the \$700 million capital request would fund just part of the UI system's \$2.4 billion in deferred maintenance costs at state-owned facilities.

Those costs have grown for more than a decade, as Illinois has not had a capital projects bill since 2010. Lawmakers have been discussing avenues such as gas tax increases to help fund maintenance to roads, bridges and state-owned buildings, including those for universities and colleges.

Killeen said that while the UI requests seem large, investment in state colleges and universities is a way to combat fiscal issues — not to exacerbate them.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-04/ui-president-boosting-universitys-budget-would-pay-state.html>

See also: https://herald-review.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/u-of-i-president-investment-in-higher-education-part-of/article_a797a2af-3ec8-553f-953d-39cdd10fa2fe.html

2 – University of Illinois Day celebrated in the Capitol

Wednesday was the University of Illinois Day at the State Capitol.

All three universities came together to advocate for funding for U of I.

They are pushing to enhance many programs in the university system that school officials said could boost the economy.

"For students to stay in Illinois and go to Illinois universities - not just the University of Illinois, but others," Chairman of U of I Advocacy Committee Randy Witter said.

...

<https://foxillinois.com/news/local/university-of-illinois-day-celebrated-in-the-capitol>

3 – Experts Gather To Discuss Link Between Poverty & Health, Explore Solutions

Poverty can lead to negative health outcomes, and a group of public health and policy experts will gather this week to craft a strategy to address the problem.

The events taking place in Urbana and Chicago this Thursday and Friday, respectively, are open to the public and hosted by the University of Illinois Epstein Health Law and Policy Program.

U of I law professor Robin Fretwell Wilson, director of the Epstein program, says the goal of the "Medicalization of Poverty" event is to explore how poverty is linked to negative health outcomes and work together to craft better policy.

Speakers at the panel discussion at 4 p.m. on Thursday at the U of I College of Law will include Wilson, U of I sociology professor Ruby Mendenhall and University of South Florida public health professor Marissa Levine.

The roundtable discussion at the U of I Discovery Partners Institute in Chicago will include Dr. Nirav Shah, former director of the Illinois Department of Public Health; Dr. Julie Morita, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health; Levine; Utah State Senate Whip Daniel Hemmert; Andrea Garcia, director of science, medicine and public health at the American Medical Association; and a delegate from the office of U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar.

...

<https://will.illinois.edu/news/story/experts-gather-to-explore-link-between-poverty-health>

4 – UI's decision on drinks at games about more than just beer money

After \$7 domestics and \$8 craft brews go on sale this fall at State Farm Center and Memorial Stadium, revenue from the public beer sales is expected to top \$100,000 in its first year.

But UI senior associate athletic director Marty Kaufmann said overhead costs involved with setting up the sales will lower profits, especially in Year 1.

"There will probably be an increase in the low six figures," Kaufmann said Tuesday, the day Illinois announced it would begin making beer available at select sporting events later this year. "But we've found when researching this that Year 1, you have some operational costs. Everybody thinks there's going to be a windfall, but ... that's not necessarily the case right away."

And he said the bigger revenue increases should come from getting more fans in the stadiums.

"We want more people who have tickets to come into the stadium and stay longer," Kaufmann said. "Hopefully, we'll have a better environment, which helps us win more games."

Part of the revenue increase will go toward paying for more security at games, even though UI officials expect alcohol-related incidents to decrease.

"It's something we're doing right now as an overabundance of caution," said Pat Wade, spokesman for the University of Illinois Police. "We want to be sure we're ready for anything."

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-03/uis-decision-drinks-games-about-more-just-beer-money.html>

See also: <http://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2019-04-04/editorial-bottoms.html>

<https://foxillinois.com/news/local/beer-at-illini-games-more-than-just-a-money-maker>

5 – Illinois Medical District unveils big plans for the future

The 560-acre Illinois Medical District (IMD) on Chicago's Near West Side could look very different in the coming years thanks to an ambitious initiative aimed at transforming the

area's vacant land into a burgeoning mixed-use innovation district.

"We are trying to market the district in a way that embraces more urban-style development," Ryan Gage, communications director with the Illinois Medical District, told Curbed. "If you come to the district now, some of the development is older and has a suburban office park feeling. Outlined in our master plan, we would offer a broader mix of uses and foster a physical environment that creates public gathering spaces to encourage collaboration."

A recent promotional video previewed the IMD's more urban future, showcasing new retail, hotel, and civic components as well as a pair of striking gold-colored towers rising near the intersection of Ogden and Polk. While the conceptual towers are little more than eye-catching placeholders at this point, the animation illustrates the area's untapped potential.

"This is about putting a new face on the IMD," explained Christine Carlyle, principal and director of planning of Solomon Cordwell Buenz, the Chicago-based architecture firm heading the master plan. "In the past the medical institutions have been more inward facing and islands, but now these new pedestrian spaces and redevelopment opportunities could bridge the gaps and enliven the area."

The district is currently home to 40 healthcare institutions including the University of Illinois at Chicago Hospital, Rush University Medical Center, and Stroger Hospital and is the largest urban medical district in the country. Its leadership, however, believes there is much more to come.

...

<https://chicago.curbed.com/2019/4/3/18293798/illinois-medical-district-redevelopment-mixed-use-innovation>

6 – Detecting eye and brain disease earlier

The eyes may be the window to the soul, but to scientists, they are also the window to the brain. In particular, the retina, a delicate light-sensing neural network with specialized cells at the back of the eyeball, is linked directly to the brain via the optic nerve and is considered by some to be part of the brain itself.

Now, researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) are developing imaging techniques that will allow them to study minute changes in the retina that indicate the early stages of brain diseases like Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Their work is funded by a \$1.4 million, 4-year grant from the National Institutes of Health National Eye Institute.

The research, led by Xincheng Yao, the Richard & Loan Hill professor of bioengineering and professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at UIC, will look at how changes in the connections between nerves and blood vessels in the retina—known as neurovascular coupling—are related to the development of eye diseases like age-related macular degeneration and brain diseases like Alzheimer's.

...

<https://www.mdlinx.com/neurology/top-medical-news/article/2019/04/04/7562903>

7 – Illinois farmers have history of growing hemp

Hemp plants are grown for food, fiber or medicine.

"Hemp is one of the fastest growing plants and one of the first plants to be farmed over 10,000 years ago," said Chris Berry, vice chairman of the Illinois Hemp Grower's Association. "It's an annual that grows well in the Midwest."

Industrial hemp grows like a row crop when you're producing seed or fiber and much like a vegetable crop when growing it for flower, Berry explained during the Industrial Hemp Production Workshop organized by the University of Illinois Extension.

Illinois farmers have a history for growing hemp crops.

"The Polo Hemp Mill was a pilot plant for the USDA that created a hemp division to establish 42 hemp mills during the World War II era," Berry said. "Eleven mills were in Illinois, so Illinois had over 25 percent of the mills, even though there were six states involved in the program."

...

http://www.agrinews-pubs.com/news/illinois-farmers-have-history-of-growing-hemp/article_00fbc5d6-06be-54f0-8de5-679c82a2edae.html

8 – GEO petitions against UI support for ICE

On March 10, the Graduate Employees' Organization Solidarity Committee shared on their Facebook page a petition calling for the University to end their support for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol on the basis of these organization's "racist immigration policies."

The shared petition is directed specifically to the Career Center, Student Affairs and the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Institute. The petition references a National Public Radio report on documents collected by the American Civil Liberties Union, which exposed how migrants were abused physically, sexually and psychologically by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

According to the petition, "The University of Illinois Career Services and Student Affairs should stop hosting job postings for the Border Patrol and for all other agencies involved in the abuse of migrants. In addition, (UI) should cease partnering with the (Department of Homeland Security) and providing research and technological support to these agencies."

"We are dedicated to giving all students a wide variety of employment options to explore. Individual students determine which employers and opportunities may or may not align with their diverse talents, values and interests," said Jennifer Neef, director of the Career Center.

...

<https://dailyillini.com/news/2019/04/04/geo-shares-petition-against-university-support-for-ice-border-patrol/>

9 – With the admissions scandal in the news, we asked 10 Chicago CEOs: Does where you go to college really matter?

The national college admissions scandal that has rocked elite universities revived the discussion about whether where you go to college determines success and the role of

privilege in that process.

With actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman and other wealthy parents appearing in court Wednesday to face charges, the conversation over college cred is particularly timely as colleges release their admission decisions and high school seniors and their families send off deposits by May 1 to secure a spot in the class of 2023.

The Tribune reached out to some Chicago-area CEOs to ask where they went to college and what they got out of it. Many went on to earn advanced degrees at other institutions, but we found they put a lot of stock in their undergraduate experiences.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-ceos-illinois-where-went-to-college-20190327-story.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Michael Amiridis on Instagram: <http://chancellor.uic.edu/instagram-feed/>

Robert Jones on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illinichancellor/>

Susan Koch's Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/ChancellorKoch>

Twitter: [@UofILSystem](#) | [@illinois_alma](#) | [@thisisUIC](#) | [@UISedu](#)

Facebook: [@uillinois.edu](#) | [@illinois.edu](#) | [@uic.edu](#) | [@uis.edu](#)

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Fwd: [uicgeo] UPDATE: progress in negotiations, but still on strike

Poser, Susan

Wed 4/3/2019 11:12 PM

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: El-Amin, Aisha

Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 10:45:54 PM

To: Poser, Susan; ginsburg@uillinois.edu

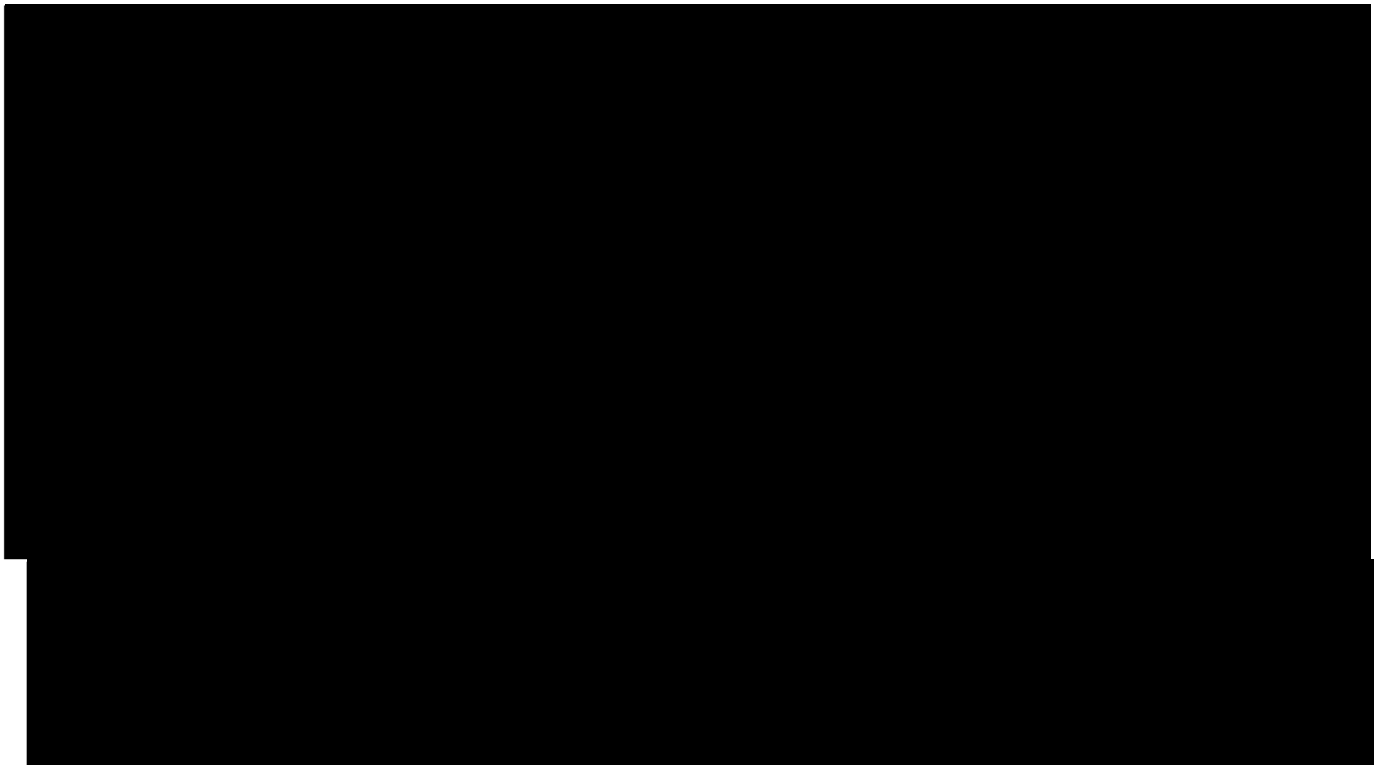
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] UPDATE: progress in negotiations, but still on strike

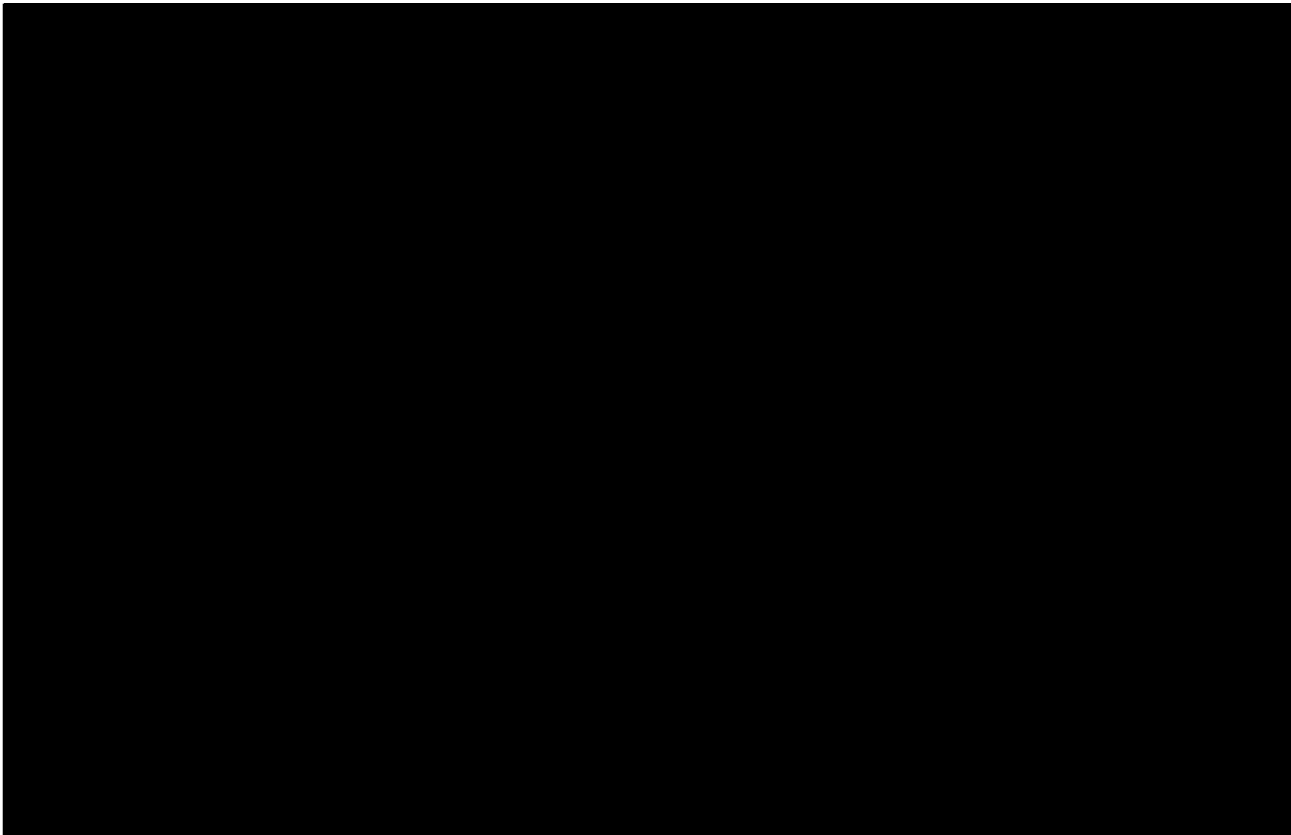
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Schuhrke <[REDACTED]>
Date: April 3, 2019 at 10:36:17 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] UPDATE: progress in negotiations, but still on strike

Dear grad workers,





In solidarity,
GEO Bargaining Team

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:
<http://www.uic-geo.net/>
Email us at geo@uic-geo.net

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

RE: Undergraduate Support for the GEO Strike

Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios

Wed 4/3/2019 1:05 PM

Archive

To: Emmelly Villagran <evilla45@uic.edu>;

Thank you, Emmelly! We also want a fair and quick resolution with the GEO and working to achieve it.

Michael Amiridis

Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St
2833 University Hall, MC 102
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 413-3350



From: Emmelly Villagran <evilla45@uic.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 10:07 AM

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>; Michaels, Walter Benn <wbm@uic.edu>; president@uic-geo.net

Subject: Undergraduate Support for the GEO Strike

Hello,

The undergraduates from the School of Art and Art History wish to express our support to the graduate students on the GEO strike. Attached is a letter drafted, and signed by students in the department. We urge the administration to come to a quick and fair agreement with the Graduate Employees Organization. Our education depends on it.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XZp-OLw5wiA_tI6BHEOmgITaLBDm47sBI1R-AF1nVRc/edit?usp=sharing

Thank you,
Emmelly Villagran
April 3rd, 2019

[UIC_TODAY] Honoring UIC's University Scholars

Staff Massmail Announcements <MASSMAIL_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU> on behalf of UIC Today <christyb@uic.edu>

Tue 4/2/2019 10:02 AM

To:MASSMAIL_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU <MASSMAIL_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU>;



April 2, 2019

Top Stories

University Scholars





Program honors faculty members for superior research and teaching

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Oscar-nominated alumnus returns to campus



Bing Liu to present filmmaking workshop, documentary screening April 4

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What's cooking in UIC's Metabolic Kitchen?



New resource for faculty and staff whose studies involve a nutrition component

[Read more](#)

Messages and announcements

Message from leadership regarding GEO negotiations

Many of you have been expressing your support for our graduate and teaching assistants during the GEO strike. We share your concern about their important role. Furthermore, we understand the financial needs of graduate students, as well as all employees of UIC, and we are doing our best to address them through collective bargaining. At the same time, we are trying to protect UIC's ability to fulfill its mission within our financial constraints and resources.

[Read More](#)

Staying Safe on Campus

University leaders place a high priority on the safety and security of our campus community. Warmer weather often brings an increase in crime and UIC leaders are continuously reassessing and adjusting security and patrol areas in response to campus needs. Utilize campus safety tips and services — they are based on best practices and will help keep you safe.

[Read More](#)

GEO Strike Update, April 1

After six bargaining sessions since the strike began on March 19, the University and the Graduate Employees Organization have made very little progress to come to an agreement, particularly on wages and fees. The University continues to bargain in good faith. We are ready to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable for both parties. Tentative agreements have been reached between the parties to make no changes to a substantial part of the overall agreement.

[Read More](#)

Campus Conversation

Please join us for the upcoming Campus Conversation, co-sponsored by the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, on Tuesday, April 2, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Michele M. Thompson Rooms, Student Center West. The title of this conversation is "What's Going on and Why? The Politics of Racial Resentment and the Cost to Health."

[Read More](#)

Campus events

- April 2: [Sparky's Drag Race](#)
- April 2: [Asian American Awareness Month Kick-Off](#)
- April 3: [27th annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival](#)
- April 3: [Architect Presentations for Performing Arts Center Design Competition](#)
- April 4: [Grant Writing Workshop](#)

- April 7: [Spring Seed Swap](#)
- April 8: [UIC Clothing Swap](#)

UIC in the News

[White people's diets are killing the environment: study](#)

New York Post

[A Dire Diagnosis](#)

Chicago Health

[UI Health Betting on Integrated Health Homes](#)

Health News Illinois

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Fwd: [OFFICIALX_STUDENT] GEO strike update, April 1

Ginsburg, Michael H <ginsburg@uillinois.edu>

Mon 4/1/2019 8:36 PM

Archive

To: Mintle, Theresa Erin <mintlet@uic.edu>; Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Barish, Robert <rbarish@uic.edu>; Coronado, John <jcoronad@uic.edu>; Tolliver, J. Rex <jrex@uic.edu>; McGinnis Gonzalez, Sherri <smcginn@uic.edu>; Robinson, Keino <keinor@uillinois.edu>; Parker, Janet <japarker@uic.edu>; Alsterda, John <alsterda@uillinois.edu>; Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>;

Cc: Colley, Karen J <karenc@uic.edu>; Levant, Amy <amy@uillinois.edu>; Kragon, Steven P <skragon@uic.edu>; Hofman, David Jonathan <hofman@uic.edu>;

This is the type of response we are looking for!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Tieng <atieng2@uic.edu>
Subject: Re: [OFFICIALX_STUDENT] GEO strike update, April 1
Date: April 1, 2019 at 8:25:34 PM CDT
To: ginsburg@uic.edu

Vice Chancellor Ginsburg,

I just wanted to say, I side with the university on these issues, and your email has been helpful to understand the details. Thank you.

Best,
Drew

On Mon, Apr 1, 2019 at 8:14 PM Official Announcement <official_owner@uic.edu> wrote:

UIC Official Announcement

Dear faculty, staff and students:

After six bargaining sessions since the strike began on March 19, the University and the Graduate Employees Organization have made very little progress to come to an agreement, particularly on wages and fees. The University continues to

UIC Official Announcement

bargain in good faith. We are ready to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable for both parties.

Tentative agreements have been reached between the parties to make no changes to a substantial part of the overall agreement. Remaining issues still under discussion are wages, health care, expenses, duration, office space and union rights. The main differences are outlined below:

Wages

As of March 30, the positions of the two sides on wages are outlined below. The current minimum salary for a 50% FTE, 9-month position is \$18,065 (hourly rate of \$23).

GEO is currently proposing an increase in the minimum salary of 7.4% in the first year of the new contract, 7.2% in the second year and 8.2% in the third year.

The University has offered a 4.1% increase in the first year, 4.1% increase in the second year and 3.75% in the third year. UIC has also agreed to pay all GEO members with active appointments at the time of ratification of a new contract the retroactive portion of the new minimum.

University departments may pay graduate assistants more than the minimum salary and many do so. Currently, approximately one-half of all assistants are paid more than the minimum salary. The University's offer does not alter the ability of units to pay assistants at a higher rate than the minimum.

Expenses

Currently, GEO members pay less than 40 percent of all student fees. With our proposal, it will be even less.

GEO members currently have the following student fees completely waived: Service Fee (\$350 per semester), Health Service Fee (\$92 per semester), Academic Facilities Maintenance Assessment (\$334 per semester) and the Library/IT Assessment (\$220 per semester). The full waiver of these fees remains in effect including coverage of any increases in those fees. Coupled with the partial coverage of the Health Insurance Fee, GEO members currently have \$2,542 per academic year in student fees waived, while they receive the corresponding services paid by the rest of the student body.

GEO members currently are required to pay the General Fee (\$431 per semester) and those GEO members who are international students also pay the International Student Fee (\$130 per semester).

The General Fee is a fee charged to GEO members as students. The fee increase was recommended by the Student Fee Advisory Committee. The General Fee will increase by \$50 per semester next year to support an expansion and remodeling of the student centers.

UIC Official Announcement

GEO is also requesting that all tuition differentials be waived and that the University provide a form to file for an exemption for Graduate Assistants of an IRS rule that allows for a tax exemption for Teaching and Research Assistants. The University position on these items is that none of these proposed changes can be adopted. The waiver of differentials would result in a significant revenue loss for many academic departments. The IRS rule cannot be circumvented without putting the University at risk of a violation of federal law.

GEO is currently proposing that all new fees created during the contract be completely waived, that all but \$100 of the General Fee each semester be waived and that international students would only pay \$30 of the International Student Fee each semester. The University cannot waive these fees because there is no source of funds which could be used to make up for the loss of revenue. The University has proposed to add \$100 to the minimum wage salary for the second year of the contract to cover the \$100 increase to the General Fee for that year.

Union Rights

GEO has requested that the University allow the union to speak at all campus, college and department graduate/teaching assistant orientations. Access to these orientations would be mandatory.

The University countered to allow GEO to speak at campus and college orientations and allow for them to speak at department orientations upon request and by mutual consent.

For ongoing information and updates on the status of negotiations, visit geobargaining.uic.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael Ginsburg
Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

[OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO strike update, April 1

Staff Official Announcements <OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU> on behalf of
Official Announcement <official_owner@uic.edu>

Mon 4/1/2019 8:13 PM

Archive

To:OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU <OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU>;



Dear faculty, staff and students:

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Expenses

Currently, GEO members pay less than 40 percent of all student fees. With our proposal, it will be even less.

GEO members currently have the following student fees completely waived: Service Fee (\$350 per semester), Health Service Fee (\$92 per semester), Academic Facilities Maintenance Assessment (\$334 per semester) and the Library/IT Assessment (\$220 per semester). The full waiver of these fees remains in effect including coverage of any increases in those fees. Coupled with the partial coverage of the Health Insurance Fee, GEO members currently have \$2,542 per academic year in student fees waived, while they receive the corresponding services paid by the rest of the student body.

GEO members currently are required to pay the General Fee (\$431 per semester) and those GEO members who are international students also pay the International Student Fee (\$130 per semester).

The General Fee is a fee charged to GEO members as students. The fee increase was recommended by the Student Fee Advisory Committee. The General Fee will increase by \$50 per semester next year to support an expansion and remodeling of the student centers.

GEO is also requesting that all tuition differentials be waived and that the University provide a form to file for an exemption for Graduate Assistants of an IRS rule that allows for a tax exemption for Teaching and Research Assistants. The University position on these items is that none of these proposed changes can be adopted. The waiver of differentials would result in a significant revenue loss for many academic departments. The IRS rule cannot be circumvented without putting the University at risk of a violation of federal law.

GEO is currently proposing that all new fees created during the contract be completely waived, that all but \$100 of the General Fee each semester be waived and that international students would only pay \$30 of the International Student Fee each semester. The University cannot waive these fees because there is no source of funds which could be used to make up for the loss of revenue. The University has proposed to add \$100 to the minimum wage salary for the second year of the contract to cover the \$100 increase to the General Fee for that year.

Union Rights



GEO has requested that the University allow the union to speak at all campus, college and department graduate/teaching assistant orientations. Access to these orientations would be mandatory.

The University countered to allow GEO to speak at campus and college orientations and allow for them to speak at department orientations upon request and by mutual consent.

For ongoing information and updates on the status of negotiations, visit geobargaining.uic.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael Ginsburg
Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

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FW: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO Strike, March 19

Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios

Sun 3/31/2019 6:40 PM

Archive

To: Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>;

This is the only message that I have from English. No formal letter (unless it came over the weekend in the Chancellor's account)

Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St
2833 University Hall, MC 102
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 413-3350



From: Bolf, Victoria A
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:31 AM
To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>
Subject: RE: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO Strike, March 19

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

I was disappointed to read this email yesterday, and I wanted to take a moment to explain why that is.

I began working at UIC in the English Department early last year, and I was (and remain) thrilled to be part of a research institution with a mission of public access. I also heard wonderful things about your leadership and the direction you are taking the university, and I agreed with them. The building projects and modernization of campus are sorely needed and will help our students. (They—both undergraduate and graduate—are the reason so many of us work in higher education at all.)

I work with graduate students at UIC every day and I have been so impressed by their intelligence, accomplishments, and stamina in the face of a witheringly difficult faculty job market. They want to do the research and teaching at which they are so talented; they do not want to disrupt classes with a strike. Nonetheless, that is precisely what they are doing, and the attitude on display in the email below seems to support their insistence that they have been forced into this corner by an administration unwilling to meet their reasonable demands.

Graduate students do not make “a salary akin to \$62,375 per year”—what they make is actually a salary akin to \$16,000 a year after fees, and it is disingenuous to suggest that they make above that (unless we are now reporting all employees’ pay as the total value of any benefits they receive on top of a salary that is impossible to achieve). The reason graduate students do not work full time for 12 months is not because they do not choose to (many of them vie for extremely limited summer teaching positions, in fact), but because they occupy a unique space in the university ecosystem: they are both students and employees, and their success in both endeavors reflects well on the institution. That is why we give them a 50% FTE teaching appointment for 9 months: so that they can actually put in well over 40 hours of work per week, year-round, on their research.

In closing, I implore you, as the chancellor of Chicago’s only public research institution, not to decide by default that the only people who deserve graduate educations are the independently wealthy, those supported by parents and partners, or those willing to go into debt. For that is the effect that the current wage and benefits structure has on graduate recruitment: it discourages the very students UIC is best equipped to serve from coming here.

With many thanks for your attention,

Vicki
Victoria Bolf, PhD
Graduate Studies Program Coordinator &
Visiting Lecturer
Department of English
The University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St, 2002 UH (MC 162)
Chicago, IL 60607-7120
(312) 413-2239 | vicbolf@uic.edu
pronouns: she/her/hers



From: Staff Official Announcements <OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU> **On Behalf Of** Official Announcement
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:56 AM
To: OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO Strike, March 19

[Read this message online](#)



Dear Campus Community,

The UIC Graduate Employees Organization, the union representing 1,600 graduate employees in collective bargaining negotiations, has declared an indefinite work stoppage beginning Tuesday, March 19.

The bargaining teams are scheduled to meet again on Friday, March 22.

All members of the university community will be expected to meet for classes as usual. During a strike, the university is committed to continuing normal operations to the fullest extent possible. Students and parents can be assured that educational objectives will be fulfilled, and grades should not be affected.

The University has participated in 22 negotiating sessions, including five utilizing the services of the federal mediator. We believe that this work stoppage is not in the best interest of the University, or our students. However, the University fully respects the rights of its employees under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act and other applicable law.

GEO members:

- have the right to picket and demonstrate;
- have the right to work, or to strike;
- who choose to strike will not be paid during the strike;
- who choose to work and not strike will continue to be paid.

A mediation session occurred yesterday, and the negotiating teams reached an agreement on appointment terms with both sides stipulating that the university will create a task force to develop guidelines for departments regarding appointments, reappointments and assignments.

Both the University and the union had hoped to make progress on the following critical issues: wages, health care fees, expenses/student fees, and union rights.

Wages

Graduate employees currently receive a minimum salary of \$18,065 for two semesters of twenty hours of work per week, plus the equivalent of \$13,502 in tuition and fee waivers (assuming full-time tuition of 12 credit hours plus for 2 semesters). When you annualize that salary from 9 months to 12 months and equate it to full time at 40 hours per week, plus the value of the tuition waivers, it is akin to a salary of \$62,375 per year.

UIC has offered an 11.5 percent increase in the minimum salary over the three-year period of the next contract (4.1 percent in year one, 3.7 percent in year two, and 3.7 percent in year three of the contract).



The GEO has asked for a more than 24 percent increase over a three-year period (7.9 percent in year one of the contract, 7.7 percent in year two, and 8.6 percent in year three) and additional tuition and fee waivers.

Health care fees

There are approximately 1,200 GEO members enrolled in Campus Care at a cost of \$570 per semester. Next year, the cost will increase to \$673 per semester. Currently, GEO members pay \$295 per semester.

UIC has agreed to cover all increases in the rate that may occur during the contract period.

The GEO has asked to pay \$220 per semester, with UIC paying the remainder of the fees.

Student fees

Graduate and undergraduate students pay a \$431 per semester general fee that will increase to \$481 next year, following a recommendation by the student fee committee. In addition, graduate and undergraduate international students pay a \$130 per semester international fee to support all services associated with international students.

UIC is dependent on the revenue from the general and international fees and is unable to meet requests to waive those fees for GEO employees.

The GEO has asked for UIC to pay the full amount of these fees.

The University has created a website, geobargaining.uic.edu, to inform our campus community of the status of negotiations and work stoppage, to answer questions relating to a strike, and for documents showing the University's proposals and the union's responses. We encourage everyone to visit the site for the most recent updates.

Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis
Chancellor

Susan Poser
Provost

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs



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Re: Letter from Faculty of the Department of History

Poser, Susan

Sun 3/31/2019 4:11 PM

Archive

To: Boyer, Christopher R. <crboyer@uic.edu>; Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Colley, Karen J <karenc@uic.edu>;

Cc: Abbott, John <jabbot1@uic.edu>; Blair, Cynthia M <cmblair@uic.edu>; Brier, Jennifer <jbrier@uic.edu>; Daly, Jonathan W. <daly@uic.edu>; Davis, Cory A <cdavis26@uic.edu>; Fidelis, Malgorzata <gosia01@uic.edu>; Goodman, Adam S I <asig@uic.edu>; Hoppe, Kirk A <kahoppe1@uic.edu>; Hostetler, Laura E <hostetle@uic.edu>; Hudson, Lynn <hudsonlm@uic.edu>; Jin, Michael <mrjin@uic.edu>; Johnston, Robert D. <johnsto1@uic.edu>; Hudson, Lynn <hudsonlm@uic.edu>; Levy, Richard S <rslevy@uic.edu>; Mantena, Rama <rmantena@uic.edu>; McClure, Ellen M <ellenmc@uic.edu>; Mogilner, Marina <mmogilne@uic.edu>; Negrin, Hayley <hnegrin@uic.edu>; Quadri, Syed Junaid Ahmed <jquadri@uic.edu>; Barbara Ransby [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@uic.edu>; Schultz, Kevin M <schantzk@uic.edu>; Todd-Breland, Elizabeth <etoddbre@uic.edu>;

Dear Dr. Boyer and Department of History faculty members,

Thank you for your letter concerning the GEO strike.

I understand and concur with your views of the good work of our graduate students, and that they are deserving of all of the support we can give them. I feel that way about you, our faculty, as well. You are the lifeblood of UIC. As students and administrators come and go, you remain. You do the most important work of the university – the research, the teaching, the service, the community engagement, the mentoring, etc. This isn't to say no one else does any of these things, but you do them all. You are UIC. I have been saying that for the past 3 years and I will continue to say it.

It is the administration's responsibility to figure out how to make this place work – to support the faculty, staff, and students in every way we can, and to address myriad other needs, from utilities to deferred maintenance to safety, and so forth. All of this circles back to supporting the mission of the University, the most important aspects of which are the education of our students, research, and community engagement.

UIC is a place that is trying to do so much – to fulfill our mission while serving and supporting a very financially challenged student body in a context of overall declining state funding. We are doing all of this in facilities that in some cases are over 50 years old and not worthy of the people who work and study in them, or the work that goes on in them. UIC is, I believe, unique in this multifaceted, public, mission, and its success thus far in fulfilling it.

I ask you not to believe everything you read on social media or hear from the unions. The University has chosen not to respond publicly to misleading narratives and partial truths. We are trying to address the demands of the GEO at the bargaining table. Our current efforts include offering wage increases from previous contracts in every area proposed.

No doubt, there are many ways to meet the challenges before us. We are endeavoring to do this in a thoughtful and balanced way, given many very real constraints that are not in our control. We may not be doing this in the best possible way or in a way that will satisfy everyone, I would never claim we were, but the simplistic alternative being put forth, i.e., to accede to all demands being made, carries serious financial risk to the institution and a high cost that I fear few are particularly interested in fully understanding, but that would nonetheless have to be paid.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Poser
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
2832 University Hall
601 S. Morgan Street
Mail Code 105

Chicago, IL 60607-7128

(312) 413-3450

Follow me on Twitter @SusanPoserUIC



LinkedIn profile

From: "Boyer, Christopher R." <crboyer@uic.edu>

Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 9:41 AM

To: "Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios" <amiridis@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>, "Colley, Karen J" <karenc@uic.edu>

Subject: Letter from Faculty of the Department of History

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Provost Poser, and Dean Colley,

I have been by my Department to share this letter with you.

We, the undersigned faculty in the Department of History, write to express our belief that a generous and favorable contract for graduate student employees is in the best interests of our Department's research and teaching mission, and that of the University. We urge the administration to come to such an agreement with the Graduate Employees Organization as soon as possible, in order to mend the rift between the University and graduate employees, and because doing so will help to raise UIC's scholarly profile.

The Department recruits and educates excellent graduate students from within the United States and globally. In the past few years, however, doctoral programs at peer public institutions have offered increasingly attractive funding packages in a bid to attract the most talented graduate students. As our peers have outpaced us, we

have found it increasingly difficult to compete with institutions that promise students five or six years of guaranteed funding at levels substantially higher than ours.

Such issues are intimately related to UIC's core mission, as powerfully articulated by Chancellor Amiridis since his arrival. Economic hardship presents increasing obstacles to working-class and immigrant students, many of them students of color. And the university's goal of globalizing education requires a distinctive commitment to easing the burdens of our international graduate employees.

We also view a speedy resolution to the GEO strike as serving the interests of our undergraduate students. Our undergraduate courses are designed around the concept of instructor/teaching assistant cooperation. Teaching assistants do not simply lead discussion sections and help to grade assignments, they are irreplaceable co-teachers whose presence and talents are necessary for the success of our courses. We cannot serve the needs of undergraduate students without graduate employees.

Rather than treating the current labor impasse as a matter of wages, we believe that it represents an ideal moment to invest in the future of the University's graduate programs. We urge the administration to help repair the social fabric of our university so that together we can collectively move forward.

Sincerely,

John Abbott, Senior Lecturer

Cynthia Blair, Associate Professor

Christopher Boyer, Professor

Jennie Brier, Professor

Jonathan Daly, Professor

Cory Davis, Lecturer

Gosia Fidelis, Associate Professor

Adam Goodman, Assistant Professor

Kirk Hoppe, Associate Professor

Laura Hostetler, Professor

Lynn Hudson, Associate Professor

Michael Jin, Assistant Professor

Robert Johnston, Professor

Lynn Hudson, Associate Professor

Richard Levy, Professor

Rama Mantena, Associate Professor

Ellen McClure, Associate Professor

Marina Mogilner, Associate Professor

Hayley Negrin, Assistant Professor

Junaid Quadri, Assistant Professor

Barbara Ransby, Distinguished Professor

Kevin Schultz, Professor

Elizabeth Todd-Breland, Assistant Professor

Re: Letter of Support for Graduate Employees Organization from SAAH Faculty

Poser, Susan

Sun 3/31/2019 4:11 PM

Archive

To: Quinn, Therese Maura <thereseq@uic.edu>; Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Michaels, Walter Benn <wbm@uic.edu>;

Cc: Archias, S Elise <archias@uic.edu>; Becker, Catherine <cathbeck@uic.edu>; Dubin, Nina <dubin@uic.edu>; Finegold, Andrew <afineg2@uic.edu>; Frid, Dianna <dfrid1@uic.edu>; Funk, Tiffany Ann <tfunk4@uic.edu>; Harmansah, Omur <omur@uic.edu>; Higgins, Hannah B <higgins@uic.edu>; Hughes, Aaron J <ahughes@uic.edu>;

Dear Dr. Quinn and members of the SAAH Faculty,

Thank you for your letter concerning the GEO strike.

I understand and concur with your views of the good work of our graduate students, and that they are deserving of all of the support we can give them. I feel that way about you, our faculty, as well. You are the lifeblood of UIC. As students and administrators come and go, you remain. You do the most important work of the university – the research, the teaching, the service, the community engagement, the mentoring, etc. This isn't to say no one else does any of these things, but you do them all. You are UIC. I have been saying that for the past 3 years and I will continue to say it.

It is the administration's responsibility to figure out how to make this place work – to support the faculty, staff, and students in every way we can, and to address myriad other needs, from utilities to deferred maintenance to safety, and so forth. All of this circles back to supporting the mission of the University, the most important aspects of which are the education of our students, research, and community engagement.

UIC is a place that is trying to do so much – to fulfill our mission while serving and supporting a very financially challenged student body in a context of overall declining state funding. We are doing all of this in facilities that in some cases are over 50 years old and not worthy of the people who work and study in them, or the work that goes on in them. UIC is, I believe, unique in this multifaceted, public, mission, and its success thus far in fulfilling it.

I ask you not to believe everything you read on social media or hear from the unions. The University has chosen not to respond publicly to misleading narratives and partial truths. We are trying to address the demands of the GEO at the bargaining table. Our current efforts include offering wage increases from previous contracts in every area proposed.

No doubt, there are many ways to meet the challenges before us. We are endeavoring to do this in a thoughtful and balanced way, given many very real constraints that are not in our control. We may not

be doing this in the best possible way or in a way that will satisfy everyone, I would never claim we were, but the simplistic alternative being put forth, i.e., to accede to all demands being made, carries serious financial risk to the institution and a high cost that I fear few are particularly interested in fully understanding, but that would nonetheless have to be paid.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Poser
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
2832 University Hall
601 S. Morgan Street
Mail Code 105

Chicago, IL 60607-7128

(312) 413-3450

Follow me on Twitter @SusanPoserUIC



Linked in profile

From: Therese Quinn <thereseq@uic.edu>

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 9:44 AM

To: "Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios" <amiridis@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>, "Michaels, Walter Benn" <wbm@uic.edu>

Subject: Letter of Support for Graduate Employees Organization from SAAH Faculty

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Dean Poster, and Interim Dean Michaels:

Please find attached a letter of support for UIC's Graduate Employees Organization from School of Art & Art History faculty.

Sincerely, Therese Quinn

--

Therese Quinn (My gender pronouns: she/her/hers - [What's this?](#))

Director, Museum and Exhibition Studies

University of Illinois at Chicago

929 West Harrison Street, MC 201

Chicago IL 60607-7039

(312) 413-2463

Museum and Exhibition Studies: www.flickr.com/photos/muse-uic/

http://artandarthistory.uic.edu/uic_masters_muse + issuu.com/museuic

Fwd: Museums Journal @fwdmuseums + <http://fwdmuseumsjournal.weebly.com/>

Fwd: Museums Journal 1 - Inaugurations 2016: <https://tinyurl.com/y7dy7ooj>

Fwd: Museums Journal 2 - Small 2017: <https://tinyurl.com/y84f99vj>

Call for Submissions - Fwd Museums 2019: Death to Museums: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8xpzf9>

This is a calm inbox: Email is checked several times each day, but generally not before 9:00 AM or after 5:00 PM or on the weekend.

Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update

Poser, Susan

Tue 3/26/2019 2:26 PM

Archive

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: El-Amin, Aisha

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 2:23:07 PM

To: Poser, Susan; ginsburg@uillinois.edu

Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Schuhrke <[REDACTED]>

Date: March 26, 2019 at 2:11:10 PM CDT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update

Dear grad workers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



In solidarity,
GEO Bargaining Team

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:
<http://www.uic-geo.net/>
Email us at geo@uic-geo.net

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

GEO Latest Facebook Post

Ginsburg, Michael H <ginsburg@uillinois.edu>

Tue 3/26/2019 7:03 AM

Archive

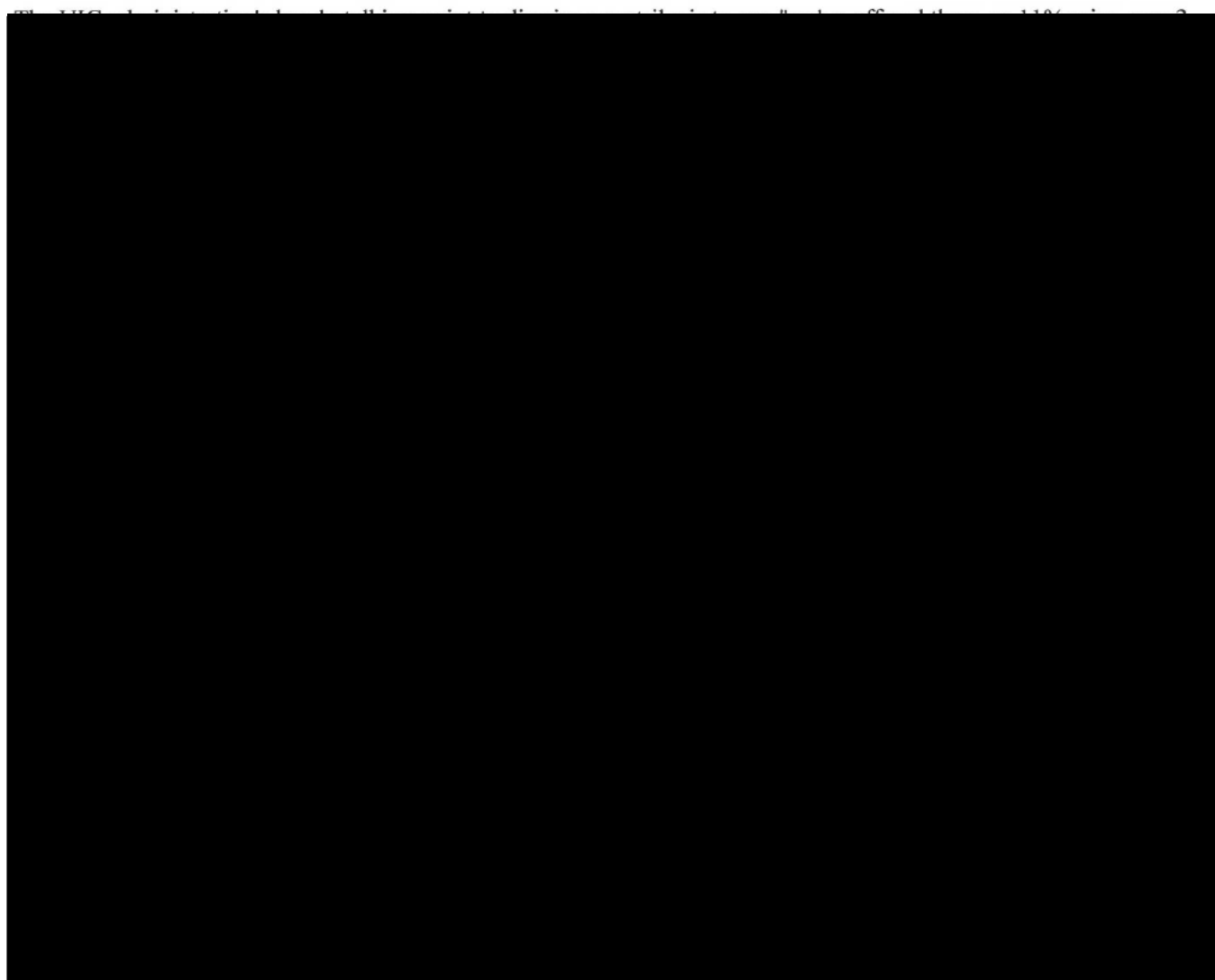
To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Parker, Janet <japarker@uic.edu>; Mintle, Theresa Erin <mintlet@uic.edu>;

Cc: Riley, Thomas <thriley@Ullinois.edu>;



[UIC Graduate Employees Organization](#)

2 hrs ·



NEWS AND TRENDS, March 20, 2019

Kirsten Ruby <kruby@uillinois.edu>

Wed 3/20/2019 8:41 AM

Archive

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;

[Click here to see this online](#)

University of Illinois System Office for University Relations Media Advisory

NEWS AND TRENDS, March 20, 2019

- 1 – Pritzker sets strict funding conditions for South Loop research center, Crain's, Mar 20
- 2 – U. of Illinois at Chicago Missed Warning Signs of Research Going Awry, Letters Show, CHE, Mar 20
- 3 – UI gets grant to pursue tobacco-free Champaign-Urbana campus, WAND, Mar 19
- 4 – Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us', Tribune, Mar 19
- 5 – The Unpaid Adjunct Ad That Wasn't (?), IHE, Mar 20
- 6 – High schoolers surprised with UIC scholarships aimed at addressing lack of black male teachers, Tribune, Mar 19
- 7 – How Many Public Universities Can 'Go Big' Online?, IHE, Mar 20
- 8 – Inspector general report finds Randy Dunn mishandled multiple hirings, Daily Egyptian, Mar 18
- 9 – Closing the book on the sorry saga of Illinois' prepaid tuition plan, Crain's, Mar 19
- 10 – 'Do You Pull the Parchment?': Students Caught Up in College Admissions Scandal Now Face a Reckoning, NYT, Mar 19

1 – Pritzker sets strict funding conditions for South Loop research center

The future of a huge research center in the South Loop once again is in grave doubt after the Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration added what appears to be onerous new conditions to state funding for the University of Illinois' Discovery Partners Institute.

The new governor in January told Crain's he wanted the research facility to fly even though it originally was proposed by the man he unseated, Bruce Rauner. Pritzker said the university would have to line up private funds rather than merely depending on the \$500 million in state cash that Rauner allotted, but suggested that was doable.

However, now comes word that Pritzker not only wants the university to match the \$500 million in state cash dollar-for-dollar, but wants the entire \$500 million in private funding in

hand before any state money is released. That means that a public school with lots of financial challenges will have to raise \$500 million on its own first, a huge and perhaps insurmountable challenge.

The latest Pritzker questions came after Crain's inquired about language in Pritzker's proposed fiscal 2020 budget, which was unveiled in February.

The budget reappropriates the \$500 million that was budgeted last year, but describes it not as a grant but a state match for private donations from individuals, corporations or other entities. The budget language adds that "state matching funds will only be released if the corresponding private donations are secured."

...

"The University of Illinois System is deeply grateful for Gov. Pritzker's support and \$500 million in matching funds as part of his proposed fiscal 2020 budget," its spokesman said in a statement. "The U of I System is working closely with the administration in support of this grant and other initiatives in the governor's budget that support higher education, discovery, entrepreneurship and job creation."

Pritzker's move also could impact other university projects above and beyond DPI. As my colleague Lynne Marek reported last summer, the University of Illinois at Chicago hoped to tap some of that \$500 million to build new computer science and drug research buildings. But none of that money was released before Rauner left office, and Pritzker now has imposed this new condition.

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/greg-hinz-politics/pritzker-sets-strict-funding-conditions-south-loop-research-center>

See also: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/columnists/ori/ct-biz-2019-chicago-megadevelopments-to-watch-ryan-ori-20181207-story.html>

2 – U. of Illinois at Chicago Missed Warning Signs of Research Going Awry, Letters Show

For a year, the University of Illinois at Chicago has played down its shortcomings in overseeing the work of a prominent child psychiatrist who violated research protocols and put vulnerable children with bipolar disorder at risk.

But documents newly obtained by ProPublica Illinois show that the university acknowledged to federal officials that it had missed several warning signs that Mani Pavuluri's clinical trial on lithium had gone off track, eventually requiring the university to pay an unprecedented \$3.1-million penalty to the federal government.

The university's Institutional Review Board, known as an IRB, the committee responsible for protecting research subjects, improperly fast-tracked approval of Pavuluri's clinical trial, didn't catch serious omissions from the consent forms parents had to sign, and allowed children to enroll in the study even though they weren't eligible, the documents show.

The IRB's shortcomings violated federal regulations meant to protect human subjects, putting it in "serious non-compliance," according to one of five letters from university officials to the federal government the university turned over to ProPublica Illinois after a nearly yearlong appeal for the documents under open-records laws.

Still, university officials have continued to blame only Pavuluri. In written statements, the university told ProPublica Illinois last year — and again this week — that “internal safeguards did not fail” and that researchers are “responsible for the ethical and professional conduct” of their projects.

...

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/U-of-Illinois-at-Chicago/245931>

See also: <https://www.propublica.org/article/university-of-illinois-chicago-uic-research-misconduct-letters-documents>

3 – UI gets grant to pursue tobacco-free Champaign-Urbana campus

The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana has received a grant to pursue a tobacco-free campus. Grants from the CVS Health Foundation and the American Cancer Society will support efforts to advocate for, adopt and implement smoke- and tobacco-free policies. That would include limiting the use of e-cigarettes.

CVS Health announced it has provided a total of \$20,000 in grants through the CVS Health Foundation to the University of Illinois.

It is part of a more than \$1.4 million grant pool to 82 schools across the country.

The grants are delivered in partnership with the American Cancer Society and Truth Initiative.

...

https://www.wandtv.com/news/ui-gets-grant-to-pursue-tobacco-free-champaign-urbana-campus/article_1a8ec234-4a5d-11e9-b8e3-63f4ced95966.html

See also: <https://foxillinois.com/news/local/u-of-i-looks-to-make-campus-100-tobacco-smoke-free>

4 – Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: ‘We have to fight for the school to care about us’

Graduate student employees at the University of Illinois at Chicago, saying they don’t earn a living wage, went on strike Tuesday after more than a year of contract negotiations failed to produce a new work agreement.

Graduate and teaching assistants formed picket lines outside of several east campus buildings and held an afternoon rally and march.

“We have students going to food pantries and going on food assistance,” said doctoral candidate Hailee Yoshizaki-Gibbons, 33.

Leaders of the Graduate Employees Organization, which represents more than 1,500 graduate student university workers, said they plan to strike indefinitely. Their previous contract expired in September, and 99.5 percent of members formally authorized a strike in February, the union said.

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multibillion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.”

A university statement from Chancellor Michael Amiridis, Provost Susan Poser and Vice Chancellor Robert Barish said the university has participated in 22 negotiating sessions, including five with a federal mediator.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-chicago-graduate-assistants-strike-20190319-story.html>

See also: <https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/university-of-illinois-at-chicago-grad-students-strike-over-wages-and-fees/81321858-eb8b-4de9-ae56-7e94db2c163d>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/03/20/grad-assistants-strike-u-illinois-chicago>

5 – The Unpaid Adjunct Ad That Wasn't (?)

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign got skewered on social media Tuesday for advertising “0 percent, [full-time equivalent], unpaid” adjunct faculty positions in social work, human behavior and social environment, and related areas. Minimum requirements included a master’s degree in social work and prior teaching experience. Duties included preparing and teaching classes weekly.

The online job ad said that an adjunct search committee will screen applicants to determine whether they are a “good fit” for the program and, “If considered to teach future courses, salary will be offered.” Many readers understood the ad to mean that adjuncts would have to initially teach for free, as a kind of audition for additional courses -- and a salary. And they criticized Illinois for apparently exploiting a bad academic job market for free labor. Illinois wouldn’t be the only institution accused of doing so. Last year, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale asked its professors to ask alumni to assist with faculty work.

Illinois quickly changed the ad to clarify that applicants will merely apply to be included in a pool of preapproved faculty candidates -- not to work for free, it says. Steven Anderson, dean of Illinois’s School of Social Work, explained via email that the original post was “soliciting applicants who would be given 0 percent appointments in the school and therefore vetted and available to teach specific courses in the future as the school needed.”

...

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/03/20/unpaid-adjunct-ad-wasnt>

6 – High schoolers surprised with UIC scholarships aimed at addressing lack of black male teachers

At Butler College Prep on the Far South Side, five seniors and a recent graduate were surprised on Tuesday afternoon with scholarships offered through a program aimed at addressing the lack of male African-American teachers in the country’s schools.

As members of the second class of Call Me MISTER scholars, the teenagers were awarded full scholarships to study education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Classmates cheered as the students put on red and blue baseball caps at an end-of-day assembly.

"I was in shock to hear my name called," said Teon Nesbitt, one of the recipients. "I'm an athlete, so I'm not used to being portrayed as an educator. But I work hard in class and on the court. So it just shows that you can be anything you want to."

Last fall, UIC launched the MISTER program — Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models — which recruits and trains male elementary education majors of color. Only an estimated 2 percent of teachers in public schools across the country — where half of those enrolled are students of color — are African-American men, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-uic-call-me-mister-scholarships-20190319-story.html>

7 – How Many Public Universities Can 'Go Big' Online?

From Massachusetts to California, as many as two dozen state university systems, individual flagship campuses and other public universities are talking publicly (or quietly) about undertaking ambitious online learning initiatives.

Some are focused on enrollment or revenue growth, some on better serving the millions of working adults or other populations of Americans that traditional higher education has historically struggled to reach.

Some aim to join the ranks of regional or even national players like Arizona State, Southern New Hampshire and Western Governors Universities; others strive to retake or hold on to state residents now studying online at institutions elsewhere.

"The time for us to act is now," Marty Meehan, president of the University of Massachusetts, said in announcing the system's online plan in a speech last month. "It's predicted that over the next several years four to five major national players with strong regional footholds will be established. We intend to be one of them."

...

But numerous public universities have suffered high-profile failures or false starts in efforts to launch major online operations -- most notably the University of Illinois's Global Campus, a separate online arm that the California State University System sought to build, and multiple stunted efforts by the University of Texas system.

...

<https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2019/03/20/states-and-university-systems-are-planning-major-online>

8 – Inspector general report finds Randy Dunn mishandled multiple hirings

Former SIU President Randy J. Dunn improperly hired late Chancellor Carlo Montemagno's daughter and son-in-law as well as SIU's vice president for academic affairs, according to an Illinois Office of the Executive Inspector General report, the findings of which were obtained by the Daily Egyptian.

Dunn entered a separation agreement with the Board of Trustees last July after it was discovered he coordinated with SIU Edwardsville administrators and legislators in an attempt to dissolve the university system.

The agreement stated Dunn would be entitled to a visiting professor position at SIUE for at least 18 months unless an external agency made a finding of his wrongdoing.

The agreement also stated Dunn's employment would cease immediately and automatically upon the issuance of any findings showing he violated SIU System or Illinois policy.

The Office of the Executive Inspector General recommended Dunn not be rehired within the SIU system due to the violation of his contract.

...

<https://dailyegyptian.com/92707/showcase/inspector-general-report-finds-randy-dunn-mishandled-multiple-hirings/>

9 – Closing the book on the sorry saga of Illinois' prepaid tuition plan

The first rule for getting out of a hole is to stop digging.

It took a while, but Illinois legislators, who ought to know something about financial holes, seem prepared to apply that well-known principle the state's underfunded prepaid college tuition program. College Illinois has \$300 million less than it needs to pay future tuition at Illinois universities for students whose parents bought prepaid contracts in the mistaken belief they were guaranteed by the state.

In fact, the state has no legally enforceable obligation to cover the gap between College Illinois' promises and its cash. Yet marketing materials from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, which administers College Illinois, created the false impression that Illinois stands behind the contracts.

As my colleague Steve Daniels reported recently, bills pending before the Illinois House and Senate would oblige the state to honor College Illinois contracts. Both bills provide that "the full faith and credit of the State of Illinois is pledged for the punctual payment of such obligations."

Another \$300 million IOU is exactly what cash-strapped Illinois doesn't need. Yet the moral case for covering the College Illinois contracts is indisputable.

A state agency duped parents into believing they were buying guaranteed tuition at Illinois public universities. In fact, those parents were unwittingly betting on ISAC's ability to invest their contract purchase money well enough to keep pace with tuition increases at state schools. ISAC investments fell far short as tuition surged over the past two decades. Projections indicate College Illinois will start running out of money in 2026, just as more than 2,500 contract holders' kids are reaching college age. Illinois can't leave those families holding the bag.

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/joe-cahill-business/closing-book-sorry-saga-illinois-prepaid-tuition-plan>

10 – 'Do You Pull the Parchment?': Students Caught Up in College Admissions Scandal Now Face a Reckoning

The many students enmeshed in the college admissions scandal that was unveiled last week now face a reckoning as universities seek to determine whether they were innocent

victims who should keep working toward their degrees or unethical schemers worthy of discipline.

The University of Southern California said it had identified six current applicants associated with the case and would reject them. The school informed an additional number of enrolled students who were linked to the scandal that they could not register for classes until administrators had determined their level of culpability.

Yale, another university implicated in the fraud, reminded students last week of a longstanding policy to rescind the admission of students who falsify applications. A statement from Stanford said that inaccurate information on a college application was grounds for being "disenrolled" from the university or having an offer of admission rescinded, "as has happened regrettably in the past."

The 33 wealthy parents charged with paying large sums to get their children into leading universities are the targets of criminal complaints. But it is the schools themselves that must grapple with how to mete out justice to students who gained admissions through fraudulent means.

The scope of the scandal has left many college administrators in uncharted ethical territory.

...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/us/usc-admissions-scandal.html>

See also:

<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/How-Megadonors-Can-Fight-the/245914>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2019/03/20/university-southern-california-takes-new-actions-against-students>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/sports/college-admissions-scandal-athletes.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Michael Amiridis on Instagram: <http://chancellor.uic.edu/instagram-feed/>

Robert Jones on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illinichancellor/>

Susan Koch's Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/ChancellorKoch>

Twitter: [@UofILSystem](#) | [@illinois_alma](#) | [@thisisUIC](#) | [@UISedu](#)

Facebook: [@uillinois.edu](#) | [@illinois.edu](#) | [@uic.edu](#) | [@uis.edu](#)

All news stories available in full later today at: <https://uofi.app.box.com/e-summary>

Please check the URL after 10:30 am to read the latest news.

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OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Media contact: Tom Hardy, hardyt@uillinois.edu, 217-333-6400
General inquiries mail: [infosource](#) | [University Relations](#) | [News Releases](#)

UIC Daily Clips 3-19-19

Public and Government Affairs <newstips@uic.edu>

Tue 3/19/2019 4:30 PM

Archive

To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>;



MEDIA COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

March 19, 2019

[UIC Featured](#)[Experts Quoted](#)[Alumni / Students](#)[Broadcast](#)[News Releases](#)[News Center](#)

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[UIC Science Blog](#)[Contact Us](#)

UIC FEATURED

Chicago's new mayor will be a black woman. Can she bridge the city's divides?

Daily Chronicle - March 19, 2019

stock was abandoned, according to a 2017 study by the *University of Illinois at Chicago's* Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.



Prescription Drugs That Can Cause Depression

Newsmax - March 19, 2019

and anxiety can cause depression. A study conducted by the *University of Illinois at Chicago* and published in the Journal of the American



Materials Could Delay Frost up to 300 Times Longer Than Existing Anti-Icing Coatings - Science and Technology Research News

Science and Technology Research News - March 19, 2019

frequent reapplication," said Rukmava Chatterjee, a doctoral *student* in the *UIC College* of Engineering and the first author of the paper.



Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us'

Chicago Tribune - March 19, 2019

Graduate student employees at **University of Illinois at Chicago** went on strike Tuesday after more than a year of contract negotiations



UIC teaching assistants to go on strike

Chicago Sun-Times - March 19, 2019

More than 1,500 teaching assistants and graduate assistants at the **University of Illinois at Chicago** planned to go on strike Tuesday. The



UIC graduate workers begin strike Tuesday

WGN-TV - March 19, 2019

to watch this video CHICAGO -- Graduate workers at the **University of Illinois Chicago** plan to walk out on strike Tuesday. The workers have



UIC Graduate Teachers To Strike Tuesday Morning

CBS Chicago - March 19, 2019

university fees and appointment policies. The **UIC** Graduate Employees Organization represents more than 1,500 teaching and graduate **students**.



UIC Grad Workers Go On Indefinite Strike

WCIU, The U - March 19, 2019

UIC graduate workers and assistants reach no deal with the **university** administration on a new labor contract. They've been trying to



UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial

Telemundo Chicago - March 19, 2019

UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial



Code Blue Celebrates 30 Years of Safety And Security

MassTransitmag.com - March 19, 2019

communication solutions. Code Blue was founded when the **University of Illinois at Chicago** selected our new signature design from several



Niles hosts Illinois author today about drug addiction

Vindy.com - March 19, 2019

who is also professor of clinical pediatrics at the **University of Illinois** College of Medicine in **Chicago** and author of the book The Mystery



'Hip-Hop Poet' Kevin Coval Discusses Work April 9 at COD

Illinois Patch.com - March 19, 2019

festival in Chicago. Coval teaches hip-hop aesthetics at The **University of Illinois-Chicago**. He is the author and editor more than a dozen



New Edgewater Cafe's Owners Plan to Tackle Chicago Youth Unemployment

Eater Chicago - March 18, 2019

at a rate of 70 percent, according to research from the **University of Illinois at Chicago**, and a whopping \$9.5 billion in Illinois tax



EXPERTS QUOTED

Long-Term Use of Hormone Therapy Linked to Increased Alzheimer's Risk - Today's Geriatric Medicine

Today's Geriatric Medicine - March 19, 2019

Hospital in Boston, and Pauline Maki, PhD, of the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, query whether the findings should change the view that



Ald. Roderick Sawyer Vows To Make His Case To Voters After Being Forced Into Runoff By Challenger In 6th Ward

Block Club Chicago - March 19, 2019

to an analysis of divided City Council votes from the *University of Illinois Chicago* Political Science professor and former 44th Ward Ald.



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

ER Doctor Killed In Mercy Hospital Shooting Honored With Scholarship Fund

Vibe - March 19, 2019

a first-year medical student in the Urban Health Program at the *University of Illinois*, The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports. O'Neal's former



Scholarship named for physician killed in Chicago hospital shooting

Becker's Hospital Review - March 18, 2019

Several *alumni of the UIC College of Medicine in Chicago* have raised funds to create a scholarship fund to honor Tamara O'Neal, MD, the



UIC Local Spotlight: An Interview with M2 Cafe

Spoon University - March 19, 2019

get that stuff anywhere else when they work nearby. We especially get a lot of *UIC students*, to whom we do give a 10% discount. I think they



BROADCAST

FOX 32 News at Nine

WFLD-CHI (FOX) - March 19, 2019

>>>...At UIC for victims of the New Zealand mosque attacks.>>>



WGN-AM (Radio) at March 19th 2019 12:30 AM

WGN-AM (Radio) - March 19, 2019

Striking workers will be forming picket lines later this morning outside several buildings at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus...>>>



NEWS RELEASES

UIC symposium looks at the arts, politics of architecture

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019



UIC student honored with national civic fellowship

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019





Meltwater - 225 Bush St Suite 1000, San Francisco, California 94104 USA

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Subject: letter of support for UIC Graduate Employees Organization from AFT and IFT Presidents
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7:22:14 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Alyssa Picard, AFT Higher Education
To: UIC Chancellor, Provost, presidentkilleen@uillinois.edu
CC: Jeff Schuhrke, [REDACTED]
Attachments: AFT and IFT letter to UIC admin.pdf

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Provost Poser, and President Killeen,

Attached please find a letter of unconditional support for your striking graduate employees from AFT President Randi Weingarten and IFT President Dan Montgomery.

Very respectfully,

Alyssa Picard
Director | AFT Higher Education
O: 202-585-4368 | E: apicard@aft.org

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
555 New Jersey Ave. NW | Washington, DC 20001 | 202-879-4400

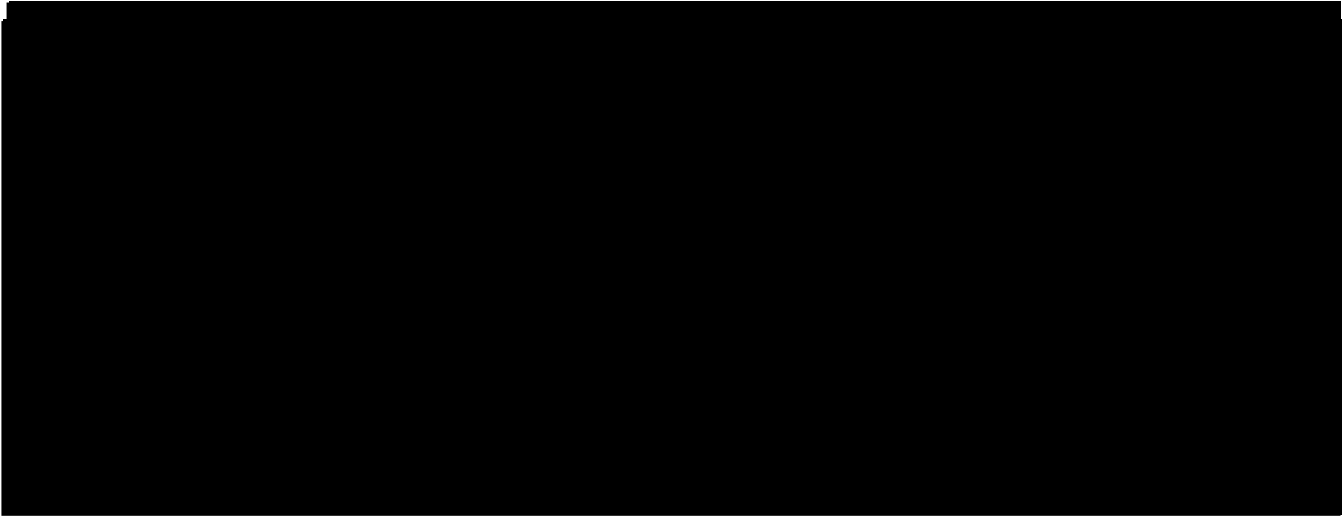
Subject: GEO Bargaining

Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:57:15 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Wesley Townsend

To: UIC Chancellor, Poser, Susan

Dear Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser,



Regards,
Wes Townsend
UIC GEO Bargaining Chair

Subject: Re: Learning Sciences faculty concerns about GEO situation

Date: Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 4:13:52 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Poser, Susan

To: Joshua Radinsky, UIC Chancellor, Colley, Karen J

CC: [REDACTED], Pellegrino, James W., Goldman, Susan R., Wink, Donald J, Martin, Danny Bernard, Martinez, Mara Vanina, Razfar, Aria, Tozer, Steven E

Dear Dr. Radinsky and members of the LSRI Faculty,

Thank you for your letter concerning the GEO strike.

I understand and concur with your views of the good work of our graduate students, and that they are deserving of all of the support we can give them. I feel that way about you, our faculty, as well. You are the lifeblood of UIC. As students and administrators come and go, you remain. You do the most important work of the university – the research, the teaching, the service, the community engagement, the mentoring, etc. This isn't to say no one else does any of these things, but you do them all. You are UIC. I have been saying that for the past 3 years and I will continue to say it.

It is the administration's responsibility to figure out how to make this place work – to support the faculty, staff, and students in every way we can, and to address myriad other needs, from utilities to deferred maintenance to safety, and so forth. All of this circles back to supporting the mission of the University, the most important aspects of which are the education of our students, research, and community engagement.

UIC is a place that is trying to do so much – to fulfill our mission while serving and supporting a very financially challenged student body in a context of overall declining state funding. We are doing all of this in facilities that in some cases are over 50 years old and not worthy of the people who work and study in them, or the work that goes on in them. UIC is, I believe, unique in this multifaceted, public, mission, and its success thus far in fulfilling it.

I ask you not to believe everything you read on social media or hear from the unions. The University has chosen not to respond publicly to misleading narratives and partial truths. We are trying to address the demands of the GEO at the bargaining table. Our current efforts include offering wage increases from previous contracts in every area proposed.

No doubt, there are many ways to meet the challenges before us. We are endeavoring to do this in a thoughtful and balanced way, given many very real constraints that are not in our control. We may not be doing this in the best possible way or in a way that will satisfy everyone, I would never claim we were, but the simplistic alternative being put forth, i.e., to accede to all demands being made, carries serious financial risk to the institution and a high cost that I fear few are particularly interested in fully understanding, but that would nonetheless have to be paid.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Poser
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
2832 University Hall
601 S. Morgan Street
Mail Code 105
Chicago, IL 60607-7128
(312) 413-3450
Follow me on Twitter @SusanPoserUIC

<<https://twitter.com/SusanPoserUIC>> <<https://www.linkedin.com/in/susan-poser-a687117/>>

On 3/28/19, 10:25 PM, "Joshua Radinsky" [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Provost Poser, and Dean Colley,

The Learning Sciences PhD program and research institute are gravely concerned by the delay in securing a contract with the Graduate Employees Organization, and the effect the strike is having on our students and our research. We feel strongly that it is in the best interests of all parties – the university, our program, and particularly our students and research assistants – for the administration to come to agreement on a contract that is generous in its consideration of the needs of graduate student employees. We join our voices to the many other departments that have communicated similar concerns to you in recent days.

The Learning Sciences faculty and staff work hard every year to recruit excellent PhD students to our unique program, and we have had great success over the last decade in establishing UIC as one of the best places in the country to obtain a PhD in this growing field. Yet every year we struggle with the fact that other institutions offer more generous benefits to their graduate employees. The best strategic move UIC could make at this moment in time would be to make a highly visible statement that we value graduate students' work and contributions, that we are serious about bringing in students from under-represented, working-class, and immigrant families and supporting them in securing doctoral degrees.

Unfortunately the present labor dispute is communicating exactly the opposite to our students, to our potential students, and to the larger public. This is all in direct conflict with our land grant mission and our commitment to equity, and undermines our relationships with the communities we serve. The protracted contract dispute highlights the economic struggles and sacrifices that are the reality for our graduate students, and may be contributing to a perception that UIC is indifferent to these realities.

Please take this opportunity to make this contract a strong statement of investment and commitment in the value of the outstanding students we have brought to UIC, and a pledge to support the work they do here and their contributions to the larger communities they will serve after graduation. Rather than dig in for a protracted fight that undermines our university and our programs, we urge you to settle a generous contract now so that we can move forward.

Sincerely,

• Dr. James Pellegrino, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Education, Co-Director Learning Sciences Research Institute

• Dr. Susan Goldman, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Education, Co-Director Learning Sciences Research Institute

• Dr. Steven E. Tozer, Professor of Educational Policy Studies, LSRI founding faculty member

• Dr. Donald Wink, Professor of Chemistry and the Learning Sciences, LSRI founding faculty member

• Dr. Thomas Moher, Emeritus Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Learning Sciences, , LSRI founding faculty member

• Dr. Danny B. Martin, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction and Mathematics, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences

• Dr. Mara V. Martinez, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences

• Dr. Aris Poser, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences

- Dr. Ana Razai, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences
- Dr. Josh Radinsky, Associate Professor of the Learning Sciences and Curriculum & Instruction

From: Anna Terebus <atereb2@uic.edu>

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 12:15 PM

To: UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu>

Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Officers of the Graduate Student Council <GSC-OFFICERS@listserv.uic.edu>

Subject: The GSC statement of support for GEO

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

On behalf of Graduate Student Council members, I would like to ask you to consider the GSC statement of support for Graduate Employees Organization efforts. Please, find attached this statement. It was approved by 100% votes of the majority of the GSC representatives of all departments.

We kindly ask you to consider department representatives voice in today's Bargaining Session.

I would be happy to meet with you and discuss the graduate students stance on this matter, if needed. I am available for such meeting at any time of your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best regards,

Anna Terebus

President, GSC

Subject: Parent of Student

Date: Friday, March 29, 2019 at 2:56:38 PM Central Daylight Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: UIC Chancellor

Dear Chancellor,

As a parent of a student at UIC, I am extremely disappointed in the lack of support for the teaching assistants and graduate assistants. You gladly took your bonuses and allowed these students to live below poverty level. How can you sleep at night?

I 100% support UIC Graduate Employees Organization. The parents are speaking out! Treat our children with respect and dignity!!!!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Did you hear that we launched a new KW MAPS Coaching podcast?
Check it out! www.kwMAPSpodcast.com

Subject: Fwd: UIC GEO Striking Grad Workers Need Your Support

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 11:41:27 PM Central Daylight Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: UIC Chancellor

Dear Michael,

I am in solidarity with this appeal from our graduate students. They are critical to our well deserved success and should be recognized for their contributions. We should be leaders in treating our graduate employees fairly.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.dentons.com<<http://www.dentons.com/>>

[REDACTED]

Dentons US LLP

Salans FMC SNR Denton McKenna Long

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Tefft [REDACTED] <[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])>

Date: March 28, 2019 at 7:46:37 PM MST

To: [REDACTED] >

Subject: UIC GEO Striking Grad Workers Need Your Support

Dear Mr. Jacobson, Distinguished Alumnus--

As Co-Presidents of the University of Illinois at Chicago Graduate Employees Organization (UIC GEO), the union that represents over 1500 graduate employees at UIC, we're writing to you in your capacity as a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. We want to share with you some information about the current status of our ongoing contract negotiations with the administrators who represent the Trustees at the bargaining table.

GEO members have been on strike since March 19 for basic financial stability in the form of fee relief and good wages. Shamefully, this is the second year in a row<<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-u-of-i-geo-strike-voting-20180309-story.html>> that graduate employees at a University of Illinois campus have been forced to go on strike to safeguard workplace rights.

Our strike has received press coverage in the Chicago

Tribune<<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-chicago-graduate-assistants-strike-20190319-story.html>>, Chicago Sun-Times<<https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/uic-graduate-teaching-assistants-strike-university-illinois-chicago/>>, WBEZ<<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/university-of-illinois-at-chicago-grad-students-strike-over-wages-and-fees/81321858-eb8b-4de9-ae56-7e94db2c163d>>, and elsewhere. Most classes were cancelled last week, before spring break, as a result of our work stoppage. Midterm exams and assignments are not being graded. Prospective students visiting campus have seen our pickets. Undergraduates and faculty have overwhelmingly expressed support for us and, like us, they blame the dispute entirely on the university administration. Despite this, there continues to be little to no progress on the proposals that are most important to our union.

Due to the relatively small raises we have traditionally received and the increasing burden of inflation, our members make less now than they did a decade ago in real dollars. Many graduate employees make as little as \$18,000 a year while teaching as many classes as faculty in addition to their full-time studies. Despite making so little, they are also required to pay up to \$2,000 in annual university fees. Every time the fees are raised, which the administration is currently proposing, it serves as a backdoor pay cut.

We believe that fee waivers and substantial raises are within the university's means. The budget surplus is the largest it has been in UIC's history, and the administration feels emboldened to allocate large sums for resources other than the faculty and graduate workers who perform the teaching and research that is the very heart of the public university. Enrollments are at record highs<<https://today.uic.edu/number-of-new-freshmen-at-uic-jump-23-pushing-total-enrollment-over-30000>>, multi-million-dollar construction projects<<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-uic-new-residence-hall-met-20170919-story.html>> are underway, the campus recently acquired a law school<<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-john-marshall-law-school-uic-20180719-story.html>>, the university president recently got a \$100,000 bonus<<https://newschannel20.com/news/local/100k-bonus-approved-for-u-of-i-president>> for the third year in a row, and UIC has announced a \$1 billion investment<[https://abc7chicago.com/education/uic-unveils-\\$1b-campus-renovation-plan/5006029/](https://abc7chicago.com/education/uic-unveils-$1b-campus-renovation-plan/5006029/)> in infrastructure renovations. We think more of this money should be invested in those who perform the work of the university.

UIC GEO has spent twelve months negotiating, during which our bargaining team has frequently moved toward the administration's positions while they refused to move toward ours. As we made clear in a recent op-ed<<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-uic-faculty-pritzker-higher-education-investment-0204-20190201-story.html>> in the Chicago Tribune, we can no longer step down on our proposals without some movement from the administration, as continuing to do so would be ineffective bargaining and a betrayal of our membership, as well as the students and scholarship that they serve. We cannot accept "no changes" to our existing contract language relating to fees, nor can we accept anything other than a living wage.

The other campus unions with which we are in coalition, UIC United Faculty and the Illinois Nurses Association, are facing similar problems in negotiations with UIC administration. We stand in solidarity<http://inthesetimes.com/working/entry/21577/a_testing_of_the_waters_after_janus> with them as they do with us.

We have been receiving letters and statements of support from all across the UIC community, including the Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Council, the student member of the University Board of Trustees, medical students, all of the student organizations at the John Marshall School of Law, various departments, and the faculty union. We've also gotten messages of solidarity from graduate student workers at other universities, including Northwestern, Harvard, and Columbia.

Do we have your support in ensuring that our members, and by extension the mission that they serve, are concretely valued through fair compensation? If so, we would ask that you write us and let us know and that you write Chancellor Amiridis at chancellor@uic.edu<<mailto:chancellor@uic.edu>> and implore him to end the strike and give us the fair contract we deserve.

Sincerely,

Anne Kirkner and Jeff Schuhrke
GEO Co-Presidents

Subject: Learning Sciences faculty concerns about GEO situation
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 9:25:22 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: UIC Chancellor, Poser, Susan, Colley, Karen J
CC: [REDACTED]
Attachments: Learning Sciences faculty concerns GEO.pdf

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Provost Poser, and Dean Colley,

The Learning Sciences PhD program and research institute are gravely concerned by the delay in securing a contract with the Graduate Employees Organization, and the effect the strike is having on our students and our research. We feel strongly that it is in the best interests of all parties – the university, our program, and particularly our students and research assistants – for the administration to come to agreement on a contract that is generous in its consideration of the needs of graduate student employees. We join our voices to the many other departments that have communicated similar concerns to you in recent days.

The Learning Sciences faculty and staff work hard every year to recruit excellent PhD students to our unique program, and we have had great success over the last decade in establishing UIC as one of the best places in the country to obtain a PhD in this growing field. Yet every year we struggle with the fact that other institutions offer more generous benefits to their graduate employees. The best strategic move UIC could make at this moment in time would be to make a highly visible statement that we value graduate students' work and contributions, that we are serious about bringing in students from under-represented, working-class, and immigrant families and supporting them in securing doctoral degrees.

Unfortunately the present labor dispute is communicating exactly the opposite to our students, to our potential students, and to the larger public. This is all in direct conflict with our land grant mission and our commitment to equity, and undermines our relationships with the communities we serve. The protracted contract dispute highlights the economic struggles and sacrifices that are the reality for our graduate students, and may be contributing to a perception that UIC is indifferent to these realities.

Please take this opportunity to make this contract a strong statement of investment and commitment in the value of the outstanding students we have brought to UIC, and a pledge to support the work they do here and their contributions to the larger communities they will serve after graduation. Rather than dig in for a protracted fight that undermines our university and our programs, we urge you to settle a generous contract now so that we can move forward.

Sincerely,

- Dr. James Pellegrino, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Education, Co-Director Learning Sciences Research Institute
- Dr. Susan Goldman, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Education, Co-Director Learning Sciences Research Institute
- Dr. Steven E. Tozer, Professor of Educational Policy Studies, LSRI founding faculty member
- Dr. Donald Wink, Professor of Chemistry and the Learning Sciences, LSRI founding faculty member
- Dr. Thomas Moher, Emeritus Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Learning Sciences, , LSRI founding faculty member
- Dr. Danny B. Martin, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction and Mathematics, Faculty Affiliate of Learning

Sciences

- Dr. Mara V. Martinez, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences
- Dr. Aria Razfar, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences
- Dr. Josh Radinsky, Associate Professor of the Learning Sciences and Curriculum & Instruction

Subject: Re: Radical Public Health Statement of Solidarity
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:34:43 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: UIC Chancellor
CC: Radical Pubic Health Facilitators

Hi again Chancellor!

We appreciate your willingness to continue negotiations. I did have a few concerns with your last sentence and was hoping for some clarification. Over the past few years, the university has created several new buildings and offered substantial bonuses to administrators such as yourself.

Can you explain why resources can't be allotted to fair pay for those teaching classes and doing other vital work, rather than to bonuses for individuals already making hundreds of thousands of dollars or to the creation of new buildings?

Best,
[REDACTED]

On Mar 28, 2019, at 3:27 PM, UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I share the aspirations of all our graduate student TAs, after all, I was a graduate student TA, as well. We all appreciate their commitment to the university, and I plan to continue to work with them to develop a fair contract based on reasonable demands.

I appreciate the labor history and contexts you cite, but the central issue is that, with its current resources, UIC cannot afford to concede to all the GEO requests without reducing the number of graduate student employees or decreasing funding in other critical areas. We simply do not have the resources to meet all their demands.

Michael Amiridis

Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St
2833 University Hall, MC 102
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 413-3350

<image001.png>

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:54 PM

To: UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu>

Cc: Radical Public Health Facilitators <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Radical Public Health Statement of Solidarity

Hi Chancellor Amiridis,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of Radical Public Health, a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members rooted in the School of Public Health. As you know, I am an alumni of UIC's undergraduate program, a current Masters student, and will be continuing my education here as a medical student in the Fall. I am deeply committed to UIC, and above all, to the success and well-being of the students I both teach and learn alongside. As a student in the School of Public Health, alongside my fellow Radical Public Health facilitators, I am strongly concerned about the individual and systemic impacts of the current strike. We invite you to read our thoughts below, and ask that you—alongside UIC's other administrators—take the necessary steps to end this strike.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Radical Public Health Statement:

Radical Public Health (RPH) stands in solidarity with the people striking with the Graduate Employees Organization. As students, researchers, academics, and practitioners of public health, we recognize how the unmet demands of the union continue to perpetuate health inequities among graduate workers. Labor unions have served a historic role in promoting some of the most significant advances in worker and broader public health, including the establishment of occupational health and safety standards, the 40-hour workweek, and protections from discrimination and exploitation. However, the current contract (or lack thereof), with its poverty wages, exorbitant fees, and employment precarity contribute to stress, anxiety, food insecurity, and other adverse health determinants and outcomes.

UIC is situated within the broader US context, which has structural racism and pay inequity embedded across its entire history. Given that UIC's student population is made up of predominantly people of color, the institution that was originally founded to serve Illinois's working class is perpetuating not only class inequity, but also structural racism.

With the cost of education having risen to alarming levels over the last few decades, not providing fair pay for workers makes the pursuit of higher education, as an equalizer of opportunity, less accessible, especially for people who have experienced one or more interlocking inequities in society, all of which must be considered in terms of how they link to unfair working conditions and pay. Systems of oppression compound one another to further injustice in our community, and poverty wages worsen classism and racism at the University and beyond.

The risks that students take by striking—including forgoing the paltry wages they

already receive--exacerbates these threats to health, and demonstrates their commitment to and the necessity of better wages and working conditions. In order to best promote the health and well-being of all in the UIC community, graduate workers deserve a living wage, less burdensome fees, and transparency in the hiring process. UIC should, as an institution, be a driver toward equity in pay and workers' wellbeing, but it is currently doing the opposite.

Historically, academic institutions have profited off of the labor, recognition, and prestige that their graduate workers contribute; often at the expense of their health and wellbeing. A budget can be understood as a list of priorities, and by not prioritizing fair contracts for graduate workers, UIC has made it all too clear that they are not prioritizing the wellbeing of these students. Establishing a fair contract that meets the needs of graduate workers and enables them to thrive would help rectify these injustices, and would pave the way for a more just, equitable, and healthy university system that benefits all.

We urge the Chancellor, Provost, and UIC Administrators to recognize the public health imperative of meeting the GEO's demands, take the necessary steps to end the strike as quickly as possible, and create a contract that prioritizes student health and welfare.

RPH is an association of students, alumni, faculty, staff, practitioners, and community members that seeks to address the systemic, underlying causes of public health challenges and to consider more radical solutions. If you'd like to learn more about RPH or get involved in our activities, please email rphe@uic.edu.

Subject: Statement of Support for the UIC GEO

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 12:25:24 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Emilio Sauri

To: UIC Chancellor

Dear Chancellor Michael Amiridis,

I'm writing both as a member of the Caucus for a Democratic Union at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and as a former member of the Graduate Employees Organization at UIC, where I graduated from the Department of English in 2010.

As an alumnus, I am proud of the success and growth UIC has achieved in recent years. At the same time, as a former graduate student who faced financial burdens that many of your graduate students continue to face today, I also know that this success and growth would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication.

The CDU, a caucus of progressive faculty and staff that belong to the Faculty Staff Union at UMass Boston, wrote up a statement in support of the UIC GEO strike. You can find the statement on our blog here:

https://caucusfordemocraticunion.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR2MpaGzkTt_WLdy5_g-AoMFcSq4189FdJ1iIVUnaHzNI4hIVmhryYtjPrg

Together, we urge UIC university administration to negotiate in good faith and pay its graduate employees a living wage.

All best,
Emilio Sauri

Emilio Sauri, PhD
Associate Professor
English Department
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125-3393

Subject: UIC GEO

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 7:37:24 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Heer, Sarita

To: UIC Chancellor

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

My name is Sarita Heer and I graduated from UIC in 2014 with a Ph. D. in Art History. I am now a Lecturer at Loyola University Chicago where I have the pleasure of giving advice to talented undergraduates who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees in Art History and Museum Studies. It is my great disappointment to report that at this time I am unable to recommend my alma mater to these students in good faith.

The current labor dispute with the Graduate Employees Organization IFT Local 6297 is a disgrace to the university. The outright lies presented by the University's bargaining team and the attempts to illegally intimidate strikers are contrary to the values of the institution that were instilled in me during my studies there. The failures of the university to treat its graduate employees with respect, to ensure that fair wages are paid, and to ensure that these wages are not clawed back by arbitrary and capricious fees make it unconscionable for me to recommend graduate studies there.

Unless and until UIC begins treating its graduate employees with respect I will not be suggesting UIC to any undergraduate I advise. I remind you that the strikers today will be the faculty of tomorrow, the source of UIC's graduate recruiting for years to come. They will remember how you have treated them.

Sincerely,
Sarita Heer

Sarita K. Heer, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Department of Fine and Performing Arts
Mundelein Center 1200
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660

Subject: Dr. Sporer-UIC Alumnus, Concerning Graduate Employee Organization

Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 at 1:02:08 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Ryan Sporer

To: UIC Chancellor

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

My name is Dr. Ryan Alan Sporer and I graduated from UIC in Aug 2018 with a PhD. in sociology. I am now a Visiting Assistant Professor (soon to be tenure tracked assistant professor) at Salisbury University in Maryland where I have the pleasure of giving advice to talented undergraduates who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees in the social sciences.

It is my great disappointment to report that I am unable to recommend my alma mater to these students as I, myself struggled economically and psychologically trying to live under the conditions of employment at UIC. Living with another graduate student, taking out student loans, and adjuncting at universities in the region was a hardship that appears to be unnecessary given the financial state of the university, compensation differences, increased enrollment, and administrative decisions. The current (and past) labor dispute(s) with the Graduate Employees Organization IFT Local 6297 is a disgrace to the university. The outright lies presented by the University's bargaining team and the attempts to illegally intimidate strikers are contrary to the values of the institution that were instilled in me during my studies there. The failures of the university to treat its graduate employees with respect, to ensure that fair wages are paid, and to ensure that these wages are not clawed back by arbitrary and capricious fees make it unconscionable for me to recommend graduate studies there. Unless and until UIC begins treating its graduate employees with respect I will not be suggesting UIC to any undergraduate I advise. I remind you that the strikers today will be the faculty of tomorrow, the source of UIC's graduate recruiting for years to come. They will remember how the University have treated them.

I am always confused why public institutions have such a bad track record when it comes to labor relations. It seems to me this week and the near future is a good time to change that record.

The policies and actions of the administration at UIC are sadly not unique to higher education in the United States. This does not in anyway justify the created institutional situation of graduate employees. While I am not certain you will read this email, nor am I sure it will change the current posturing and actions of the University bargaining team I do want to provide you with a reading list that will able you to be the best chancellor you can be. Consider reading some of these works. Ackers, Beth and Matthew Chingos. 2016. *Game of Loans: The Rhetoric and Reality of Student Debt*.

Berg, Maggie and Barbara Seeber. 2016. *The Slow Professor: Challenging the Culture of Speed in the Academy*.

Bousquet, Marc and Cary Nelson. 2008. *How the University Works: Higher Education and the Low-Wage Nation*.

Cantwell, Brendan and Ilkka Kauppinen eds. 2014. *Academic Capitalism in the Age of Globalization*.

Chatterjee, Piya and Sunaina Maira eds. 2014. *The Imperial University: Academic Repression and Scholarly Dissent*.

Cottom, Tressie McMillan. 2017. *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy*.

Donoghue, Frank. 2008. *The Last Professors: The Corporate University and the Fate of the Humanities*.
Fabricant, Michael and Stephen Brier. 2016. *Austerity Blues: Fighting for the Soul of Public Higher Education*.

Gerber, Larry. 2014. *The Rise and Decline of Faculty Governance: Professionalization and the Modern American University*.

Ginsberg, Benjamin. 2013. *The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why it Matters*.

Giroux, HA. 2014. *Neoliberalism's War on Higher Education*.

Mettler, Suzanne. 2014. *Degrees of Inequality: How the Politics of Higher Education Sabotaged the American Dream*.

Newfield, Christopher. 2011. *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty-Year Assault on the Middle Class*.

Newfield, Christopher. 2016. *The Great Mistake: How We Wrecked Public Universities and How We Can Fix Them*.

Nelson, Cary. 2011. *No University Is an Island: Saving Academic Freedom*

Readings, Bill. 1997. *The University in Ruins*.

Selingo, Jeffrey. 2015. *College (Un)bound: The Future of Higher Education and What It Means for Students*.

Schrecker, Ellen. 2010. *Lost soul of higher education: corporatization, the assault on academic freedom, and the end of the American university*.

Slaughter, Sheila and Gary Rhoades. 2009. *Academic Capitalism and the New Economy: Markets, State, and Higher Education*.

Slaughter, Sheila and Larry Leslie. 1999. *Academic Capitalism: Politics, Policies, and the Entrepreneurial University*.

Tuchman, Gaye. 2011. *Wannabe U: Inside the Corporate University*.

Washburn, Jennifer. 2006. *University, Inc.: The Corporate Corruption of Higher Education*.

Sincerely,
Ryan Alan Sporer PhD.
Visiting Assistant Professor

Subject: Graduate Student Strike

Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 at 9:45:34 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Edgar Bering

To: UIC Chancellor

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

My name is Edgar A. Bering IV and I graduated from UIC in 2017 with a Ph. D. in mathematics. I am now a Research Assistant Professor at Temple University where I have the pleasure of giving advice to talented undergraduates who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees in mathematics. It is my great disappointment to report that at this time I am unable to recommend my alma mater to these students in good faith.

The current labor dispute with the Graduate Employees Organization IFT Local 6297 is a disgrace to the university. The outright lies presented by the University's bargaining team and the attempts to illegally intimidate strikers are contrary to the values of the institution that were instilled in me during my studies there. The failures of the university to treat its graduate employees with respect, to ensure that fair wages are paid, and to ensure that these wages are not clawed back by arbitrary and capricious fees make it unconscionable for me to recommend graduate studies there.

Unless and until UIC begins treating its graduate employees with respect I will not be suggesting UIC to any undergraduate I advise. I remind you that the strikers today will be the faculty of tomorrow, the source of UIC's graduate recruiting for years to come. They will remember how you have treated them.

Regards,

Edgar A. Bering IV, Ph. D.

Research Assistant Professor

Department of Mathematics

Temple University

Philadelphia, PA

Subject: Graduate Employees Organization

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 11:04:20 PM Central Daylight Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: UIC Chancellor

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

As a full-time undergraduate engineering student of UIC, I ask that you and the administrative staff capitulate to the Graduate Employees Organization's demands and settle an end to the ongoing negotiations so that our classes can continue to be taught. Thank you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Update on contract negotiations with Graduate Employees Organization

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 12:21:19 PM Central Daylight Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: UIC Chancellor

Class has been cancelled for the second day. I would appreciate some information.

On Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 6:10 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

My daughter attends UIC. Based on an email that was sent out on 3/14, I understood that classes were not to be disrupted. Obviously, staff if not in agreement. Please see the below emails from her CLJ 240 teacher, who by the way just returned from several weeks off to have a baby and now is cancelling classes again and encouraging her students to picket instead.

I look forward to hearing from someone regarding this situation.

Thank you,

Laurel Mazar - lmazar2@uic.edu <do-not-reply@blackboard.com>

to

Hi all,

We have been hearing the administration sent an email only to undergrads that said we make 62k a year. This could not be further from the truth. We make 18-21k and also pay about 2-4k in fees per semester. For most grad students, this is our only job and it can be challenging to sustain costs of living on this wage. Spreading the truth is important, so please don't be fooled by the administration's attempts to discredit grad students or the strike. I apologize for the rift this is putting in the semester, but there have been 22 meetings with no movement from the admin on a fair contract.

Also, there will be no quiz Thursday if the strike is not resolved.

Thanks,

L

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laurel Mazar - lmazar2@uic.edu <do-not-reply@blackboard.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 1:27 AM

Subject: CLJ 240 Criminal Justice Organizations (27558) 2019 Spring: Solidarity

To:

Hi,

You may be aware that the graduate employee organization (GEO), which is the graduate student union here at UIC, has been in negotiations with the UIC administration for over a year regarding our contract.

Due to the administration's unwillingness to negotiate, the GEO will be going on strike starting tomorrow. Because of this, all graduate students are withholding their labor. There will be no class until the strike is resolved, at which point I will let you know when class is resuming.

I would like to encourage you all to show solidarity with the GEO, and carry a sign that says I support GEO as you cross picket lines the next few days.

You can follow or become more informed about what is going on by going to www.uic-geo.net, Facebook.com/uicgeo, or @uicgeo on twitter.

Let me know if there are questions,

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

100-000000

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CS
[REDACTED]

Subject: The GSC statement of support for GEO
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 12:14:53 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Anna Terebus
To: UIC Chancellor
CC: [REDACTED], Officers of the Graduate Student Council
Attachments: GSC statement of support to GEO.pdf

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

On behalf of Graduate Student Council members, I would like to ask you to consider the GSC statement of support for Graduate Employees Organization efforts. Please, find attached this statement. It was approved by 100% votes of the majority of the GSC representatives of all departments.

We kindly ask you to consider department representatives voice in today's Bargaining Session.

I would be happy to meet with you and discuss the graduate students stance on this matter, if needed. I am available for such meeting at any time of your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best regards,
Anna Terebus
President, GSC

Subject: Update on contract negotiations with Graduate Employees Organization

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6:10:59 PM Central Daylight Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: UIC Chancellor

Hello,

My daughter attends UIC. Based on an email that was sent out on 3/14, I understood that classes were not to be disrupted. Obviously, staff if not in agreement. Please see the below emails from her CLJ 240 teacher, who by the way just returned from several weeks off to have a baby and now is cancelling classes again and encouraging her students to picket instead.

I look forward to hearing from someone regarding this situation.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Laurel Mazar - lmazar2@uic.edu <do-not-reply@blackboard.com>

to

Hi all,

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Thanks,

L

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laurel Mazar - lmazar2@uic.edu <do-not-reply@blackboard.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 1:27 AM

Subject: CLJ 240 Criminal Justice Organizations (27558) 2019 Spring: Solidarity

To:

Hi,

You may be aware that the graduate employee organization (GEO), which is the graduate student union here at UIC, has been in negotiations with the UIC administration for over a year regarding our contract.

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I would like to encourage you all to show solidarity with the GEO, and carry a sign that says I support GEO as you cross picket lines the next few days.

You can follow or become more informed about what is going on by going to www.uic-geo.net, Facebook.com/uicgeo, or @uicgeo on twitter.

Let me know if there are questions,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Subject: Fair contract for GEO

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 11:10:28 AM Central Daylight Time

From: Love, Marsha

To: UIC Chancellor

Chancellor Amiridis,

I implore you and the administration to settle the strike. These workers deserve a fair contract. UIC grad workers are not earning enough to live on and are not earning competitive wages with other research universities in Chicago. Surely the university can find a middle ground between 11% and 24%.

Marsha Love MA, MA

Instructor, UIC SPH EOHS

&

Program Development Manager

Illinois Occupational & Environmental Health & Safety Education & Research Center

Univ. of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health

1603 W. Taylor St. Room 1021

Chicago, IL 60612

(312)996-9568

lovem@uic.edu

Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multibillion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty. They make as little as \$18,000, even when serving as the primary instructor for courses with as many as 60 undergraduates, and are simultaneously required to pay up to \$2,000 in annual university fees.

Grad workers' low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC's educational and research mission.

"I am the lead instructor for my Sociology course, having essentially the same responsibilities as a professor, yet I am paid the campus minimum wage," says GEO member Emily Hallgren. "I live in constant financial stress. It affects so many areas of our lives that people don't see. How can I be at my best physically and mentally for research and teaching when I can't afford nutritious food? How do I dress professionally for class or conferences when I can't afford any new or nice clothes? I've spent so much of my time trying to find part-time income that fits my academic schedule. It's incredibly distracting from my own research and teaching and causes a great deal of stress."

UIC is offering grad workers raises well below what GEO has won in the past, while rejecting calls for fee waivers and transparent appointment policies. At the same time, UIC is flourishing. Enrollments are at record highs, multimillion-dollar construction projects are underway, the campus recently acquired a law school, the university president recently got a \$100,000 bonus for the third year in a row, and UIC has announced a \$1 billion investment in infrastructure renovations.

"Graduate school is supposed to be challenging, not exploitative," says GEO co-president Jeff Schuhrke, a TA in the History Department. "We're fighting against the idea that grad school is some kind of hazing ritual as opposed to real life. We're adults, often supporting families. We're professionals, often with years of experience and Master's degrees. We provide essential labor for UIC. All we're asking for is some basic financial security so we can live with dignity."

Nearly half of the employees represented by GEO are international graduate student workers, whose visa status doesn't allow off-campus jobs and limits access to loans and credit cards. Despite their extra financial hardships, in recent years UIC has begun charging international grad workers additional fees that domestic grads don't have to pay.

"International graduate workers must be in good academic standing in order to stay in the country," explains Viktoriya Zvoda, an international student, GEO member, and TA in the Physics Department. "Good academic standing comes hard when you are constantly anxious about your finances. Being able to count only on our assistantship to financially support ourselves and not being able to seek additional help in the form of loans or even credit cards puts an immense stress on international graduate employees. It is crucial that international graduate students receive living wages for our labor and a reduction or elimination of academic fees that currently equal about 12 percent of our income."

This is the second year in a row that grad workers at a U of I campus are forced to go on strike for a fair contract. Last February, grad workers at the Urbana-Champaign campus were on strike for nearly two weeks before an agreement was reached.

"After an entire year of bargaining, UIC admin has left us no other option but to withhold our labor," says GEO co-president Anne Kirkner, a TA in the Criminology, Law, and Justice Department. "They have not offered us a single dollar of relief on the thousands of dollars in fees we pay each year, and nothing that even resembles empathy for the hundreds of international graduate workers who pay higher fees simply because of their status as internationals. Like our sister union at Urbana-Champaign last year, we are ready to walk out because graduate workers deserve to be treated with dignity."

Meanwhile, UIC's 1200 tenure/tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty—represented by United Faculty—are also in the middle of contentious contract negotiations and have been working without a contract since last fall.

"UIC United Faculty stands in solidarity with the GEO in its fight to win a fair and just contract," says Janet Smith, United Faculty president and professor of Urban Planning and Policy. "A strike is not something sought by our graduate student employees. Rather, based on years of consistent behavior, it is required in order to get the contract GEO deserves. We are watching closely to see how the administration and UI leadership respond as we now go into mediation on our own contracts. It is our hope that the Board of Trustees and President will lead in changing the anti-union culture in the UI system, so that future contracts can be worked on collaboratively with labor instead of against it."

###

The **UIC Graduate Employees Organization**, Local 6297 of the Illinois Federation of Teachers-American Federation of Teachers, is the member-run union that represents more than 1500 Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants at UIC. GEO was officially recognized in 2004 and won its first three-year contract in 2006. GEO ratified its fourth three-year agreement in 2015 that expired in September 2018.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uicgeo/>

Twitter: [@uicgeo](https://twitter.com/uicgeo)

Website: <http://uic-geo.net>

Subject: Graduate Employees Organization

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 9:30:23 AM Central Daylight Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: UIC Chancellor

Good morning Chancellor Michael Amiridis,

I am e-mailing you in support and solidarity with the graduate student employees at UIC, all of whom have played an important role in my education here at UIC since my very first day of university. All of the teachers in this world are valuable. With the large classroom sizes for many of the courses at UIC, it's difficult to learn everything we need to learn in just 50 minutes. That's why our TAs are actually the people who help students learn and retain information from lectures. Especially these last two semesters, I know for a fact that I would not have passed my courses the way that I did if it weren't for the efforts of my TAs. They go above and beyond to educate us, to make sure that we are truly understanding the material and to ensure that we're familiar enough with it when it comes time for the exam. I'm sure that many others feel the same way. The graduate student employees deserve the contract that they have been asking for. They are just as valuable as the full-time professors here at UIC. Please consider how significant their role is in students' education!

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]

From: Faculty Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_FACULTY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_FACULTY] GEO strike update, April 1
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 8:16:08 PM

UIC Official Announcement



Dear faculty, staff and students:

After six bargaining sessions since the strike began on March 19, the University and the Graduate Employees Organization have made very little progress to come to an agreement, particularly on wages and fees. The University continues to bargain in good faith. We are ready to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable for both parties.

Tentative agreements have been reached between the parties to make no changes to a substantial part of the overall agreement. Remaining issues still under discussion are wages, health care, expenses, duration, office space and union

rights. The main differences are outlined below:

Wages

As of March 30, the positions of the two sides on wages are outlined below. The current minimum salary for a 50% FTE, 9-month position is \$18,065 (hourly rate of \$23).

GEO is currently proposing an increase in the minimum salary of 7.4% in the first year of the new contract, 7.2% in the second year and 8.2% in the third year.

The University has offered a 4.1% increase in the first year, 4.1% increase in the second year and 3.75% in the third year. UIC has also agreed to pay all GEO members with active appointments at the time of ratification of a new contract the retroactive portion of the new minimum.

University departments may pay graduate assistants more than the minimum salary and many do so. Currently, approximately one-half of all assistants are paid more than the minimum salary. The University's offer does not alter the ability of units to pay assistants at a higher rate than the minimum.

Expenses

Currently, GEO members pay less than 40 percent of all student fees. With our proposal, it will be even less.

GEO members currently have the following student fees completely waived: Service Fee (\$350 per semester), Health Service Fee (\$92 per semester), Academic Facilities Maintenance Assessment (\$334 per semester) and the Library/IT Assessment (\$220 per semester). The full waiver of these fees remains in effect including coverage of any increases in those fees. Coupled with the partial coverage of the Health Insurance Fee, GEO members currently have \$2,542 per academic year in student fees waived, while they receive the corresponding services paid by the rest of the student body.

GEO members currently are required to pay the General Fee (\$431 per semester) and those GEO members who are international students also pay the International Student Fee (\$130 per semester).

The General Fee is a fee charged to GEO members as students. The fee increase was recommended by the Student Fee Advisory Committee. The General Fee will increase by \$50 per semester next year to support an expansion and remodeling of the student centers.

GEO is also requesting that all tuition differentials be waived and that the University provide a form to file for an exemption for Graduate Assistants of an IRS rule that allows for a tax exemption for Teaching and Research Assistants. The University position on these items is that none of these proposed changes can be adopted. The waiver of differentials would result in a significant revenue loss for many academic departments. The IRS rule cannot be circumvented without putting the University at risk of a violation of federal law.

GEO is currently proposing that all new fees created during the contract be completely waived, that all but \$100 of the General Fee each semester be waived and that international students would only pay \$30 of the International Student Fee each semester. The University cannot waive these fees because there is no source

of funds which could be used to make up for the loss of revenue. The University has proposed to add \$100 to the minimum wage salary for the second year of the contract to cover the \$100 increase to the General Fee for that year.

Union Rights

GEO has requested that the University allow the union to speak at all campus, college and department graduate/teaching assistant orientations. Access to these orientations would be mandatory.

The University countered to allow GEO to speak at campus and college orientations and allow for them to speak at department orientations upon request and by mutual consent.

For ongoing information and updates on the status of negotiations, visit geobargaining.uic.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael Ginsburg
Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

From: Faculty Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_FACULTY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_FACULTY] GEO Strike, March 19
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:00:27 AM

[Read this message online](#)

UIC Official Announcement



Dear Campus Community,

The UIC Graduate Employees Organization, the union representing 1,600 graduate employees in collective bargaining negotiations, has declared an indefinite work stoppage beginning Tuesday, March 19.

The bargaining teams are scheduled to meet again on Friday, March 22.

All members of the university community will be expected to meet for classes as usual. During a strike, the university is committed to

continuing normal operations to the fullest extent possible. Students and parents can be assured that educational objectives will be fulfilled, and grades should not be affected.

The University has participated in 22 negotiating sessions, including five utilizing the services of the federal mediator. We believe that this work stoppage is not in the best interest of the University, or our students. However, the University fully respects the rights of its employees under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act and other applicable law.

GEO members:

- have the right to picket and demonstrate;
- have the right to work, or to strike;
- who choose to strike will not be paid during the strike;
- who choose to work and not strike will continue to be paid.

A mediation session occurred yesterday, and the negotiating teams reached an agreement on appointment terms with both sides stipulating that the university will create a task force to develop guidelines for departments regarding appointments, reappointments and assignments.

Both the University and the union had hoped to make progress on the following critical issues: wages, health care fees, expenses/student fees, and union rights.

Wages

Graduate employees currently receive a minimum salary of \$18,065 for two semesters of twenty hours of work per week, plus the equivalent of \$13,502 in tuition and fee waivers (assuming full-time tuition of 12 credit hours plus for 2 semesters). When you annualize that salary from 9 months to 12 months and equate it to full time at 40 hours per week, plus the value of the tuition waivers, it is akin to a salary of \$62,375 per year.

UIC has offered an 11.5 percent increase in the minimum salary over the three-year period of the next contract (4.1 percent in year one, 3.7 percent in year two, and 3.7 percent in year three of the contract).

The GEO has asked for a more than 24 percent increase over a three-year period (7.9 percent in year one of the contract, 7.7 percent in year two, and 8.6 percent in year three) and additional tuition and fee waivers.

Health care fees

There are approximately 1,200 GEO members enrolled in Campus Care at a cost of \$570 per semester. Next year, the cost will increase to \$673 per semester. Currently, GEO members pay \$295 per semester.

UIC has agreed to cover all increases in the rate that may occur during

the contract period.

The GEO has asked to pay \$220 per semester, with UIC paying the remainder of the fees.

Student fees

Graduate and undergraduate students pay a \$431 per semester general fee that will increase to \$481 next year, following a recommendation by the student fee committee. In addition, graduate and undergraduate international students pay a \$130 per semester international fee to support all services associated with international students.

UIC is dependent on the revenue from the general and international fees and is unable to meet requests to waive those fees for GEO employees.

The GEO has asked for UIC to pay the full amount of these fees.

The University has created a website, geobargaining.uic.edu, to inform our campus community of the status of negotiations and work stoppage, to answer questions relating to a strike, and for documents showing the University's proposals and the union's responses. We encourage everyone to visit the site for the most recent updates.

Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis
Chancellor

Susan Poser
Provost

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

From: Staff Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO strike update, April 1
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 8:12:51 PM

UIC Official Announcement



Dear faculty, staff and students:

After six bargaining sessions since the strike began on March 19, the University and the Graduate Employees Organization have made very little progress to come to an agreement, particularly on wages and fees. The University continues to bargain in good faith. We are ready to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable for both parties.

Tentative agreements have been reached between the parties to make no changes to a substantial part of the overall agreement. Remaining issues still under discussion are wages, health care, expenses, duration, office space and union

rights. The main differences are outlined below:

Wages

As of March 30, the positions of the two sides on wages are outlined below. The current minimum salary for a 50% FTE, 9-month position is \$18,065 (hourly rate of \$23).

GEO is currently proposing an increase in the minimum salary of 7.4% in the first year of the new contract, 7.2% in the second year and 8.2% in the third year.

The University has offered a 4.1% increase in the first year, 4.1% increase in the second year and 3.75% in the third year. UIC has also agreed to pay all GEO members with active appointments at the time of ratification of a new contract the retroactive portion of the new minimum.

University departments may pay graduate assistants more than the minimum salary and many do so. Currently, approximately one-half of all assistants are paid more than the minimum salary. The University's offer does not alter the ability of units to pay assistants at a higher rate than the minimum.

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From: Staff Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO Strike, March 19
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:56:17 AM

[Read this message online](#)

UIC Official Announcement



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Chancellor

Susan Poser
Provost

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

From: [Staff Massmail Announcements](#)
To: MASSMAIL_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [UIC_TODAY] Future physicians meet their match
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:30:48 AM

News-Outlet-Title-2



March 19, 2019

Top Stories

Future physicians meet their match

Match Day 2019



On Match Day, fourth-year medical students learn where they will complete residency programs

[Read more](#)

Vigil honors victims of New Zealand mass shooting

[Vigil honors victims of New Zealand mass shooting](#)



Crowd expresses solidarity with Muslims and other groups who have faced hate crimes

[Read more](#)

**UIC College of Nursing to offer in-state
tuition to out-of-state students**

stethoscope



Offer is available to qualified students living outside of Illinois who enroll in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program

[Read more](#)

Messages and announcements

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[Read More](#)

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Nominations for the UIC Alumni Association (UICAA) Alumni Awards are now open! The Alumni Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, Humanitarian Award, and Rising Star Leadership Award are the highest level of UIC alumni awards, and recognize and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni.

[Read More](#)

Gender & Sexuality Center leader

Please join us in welcoming Jordan “JT” Turner, who is the new Director of UIC’s Gender and Sexuality Center. Prior to UIC, JT worked at Northwestern University in multicultural student affairs with a focus on supporting queer and trans students.

[Read More](#)

Norman R. Farnsworth Lecture

Every year we remember our distinguished faculty member Norman R. Farnsworth with a lecture series in his honor. We are excited to, once again, welcome a world-renowned speaker to our college

on March 22. This year's speaker is Dr. Ikhlas A. Khan from the University of Mississippi.

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[Campus events](#)

- March 19: [Honors College Diversity Committee Coffee Hour Discussion](#)
- March 19: [Queer and Trans People of Color Dinner](#)
- March 20: [U.S. Department of State - Career Opportunities Info Session](#)
- March 20: [UIC Senate Meeting](#)

UIC in the News

[This artificial leaf wants to help fight climate change](#)

CNN

[Facebook says outages due to 'server configuration change'](#)

Associated Press

[Chicago's new mayor will be a black woman. Can she bridge the city's divides?](#)

Washington Post

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From: [Faculty Massmail Announcements](#)
To: MASSMAIL_FACULTY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [UIC_TODAY] Future physicians meet their match
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:31:37 AM

News-Outlet-Title-2



March 19, 2019

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[Read more](#)

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Washington Post

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MailPoet





From: [Staff Massmail Announcements](#)
To: MASSMAIL_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [UIC_TODAY] Honoring UIC's University Scholars
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 10:00:47 AM

News-Outlet-Title-2



April 2, 2019

Top Stories

University Scholars

Anne George's PhD



Program honors faculty members for superior research and teaching

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Oscar-nominated alumnus returns to campus

Bing Liu holding film camera on “Minding the Gap



Bing Liu to present filmmaking workshop, documentary screening April 4

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What's cooking in UIC's Metabolic Kitchen?

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New resource for faculty and staff whose studies involve a nutrition component

[Read more](#)

Messages and announcements

**Message from leadership
regarding GEO
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[Read More](#)

Staying Safe on Campus

University leaders place a high priority on the safety and security of our campus community. Warmer weather often brings an increase in crime and UIC leaders are continuously reassessing and adjusting security and patrol areas in response to campus needs. Utilize campus safety tips and services — they are based on best practices and will help keep you safe.

[Read More](#)

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Campus Conversation

Please join us for the upcoming Campus Conversation, co-sponsored by the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, on Tuesday, April 2, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Michele M. Thompson Rooms, Student Center West. The title of this conversation is "What's Going on and Why? The Politics of Racial Resentment and the Cost to Health."

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[Campus events](#)

- April 2: [Sparky's Drag Race](#)
 - April 2: [Asian American Awareness Month Kick-Off](#)
 - April 3: [27th annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival](#)
 - April 3: [Architect Presentations for Performing Arts Center Design Competition](#)
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-

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[White people's diets are killing the environment: study](#)
New York Post

[A Dire Diagnosis](#)
Chicago Health

[UI Health Betting on Integrated Health Homes](#)
Health News Illinois

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From: [Faculty Massmail Announcements](#)
To: MASSMAIL_FACULTY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [UIC_TODAY] Honoring UIC's University Scholars
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 10:04:20 AM

News-Outlet-Title-2



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[UIC today](#)

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MailPoet





From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#); [Ginsburg, Michael H](#)
Subject: FW: [uicgeo] Rally at Noon, Bargaining Strike Settlement at 1:00
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 11:52:11 AM

Aisha

On 4/5/19, 11:48 AM, "geo-bargainunit on behalf of Dawn Tefft" <[\[REDACTED\]](#)> on behalf of [\[REDACTED\]](#) m> wrote:

[REDACTED]

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at [\[REDACTED\]](#)

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [Provost](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: FW: Radical Public Health Statement of Solidarity
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 11:15:54 AM

FYI.

Kelcie

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:54 PM
To: Provost <provost@uic.edu>
Subject: Radical Public Health Statement of Solidarity

Hi Provost Poser,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of Radical Public Health, a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members rooted in the School of Public Health. As you know, I am an alumni of UIC's undergraduate program, a current Masters student, and will be continuing my education here as a medical student in the Fall. I am deeply committed to UIC, and above all, to the success and well-being of the students I both teach and learn alongside. As a student in the School of Public Health, alongside my fellow Radical Public Health facilitators, I am strongly concerned about the individual and systemic impacts of the current strike. We invite you to read our thoughts below, and ask that you—alongside UIC's other administrators—take the necessary steps to end this strike.

Best,
[REDACTED]

Radical Public Health Statement:

Radical Public Health (RPH) stands in solidarity with the people striking with the Graduate Employees Organization. As students, researchers, academics, and practitioners of public health, we recognize how the unmet demands of the union continue to perpetuate health inequities among graduate workers. Labor unions have served a historic role in promoting some of the most significant advances in worker and broader public health, including the establishment of occupational health and safety standards, the 40-hour workweek, and protections from discrimination and exploitation. However, the current contract (or lack thereof), with its poverty wages, exorbitant fees, and employment precarity contribute to stress, anxiety, food insecurity, and other adverse health determinants and outcomes.


UIC is situated within the broader US context, which has structural racism and pay inequity embedded across its entire history. Given that UIC's student population is made up of predominantly people of color, the institution that was originally founded to serve Illinois's working class is perpetuating not only class inequity, but also structural racism.

With the cost of education having risen to alarming levels over the last few decades, not providing fair pay for workers makes the pursuit of higher education, as an equalizer of opportunity, less accessible, especially for people who have experienced one or more interlocking inequities in society, all of which must be considered in terms of how they link to unfair working conditions and pay. Systems of oppression compound one another to further injustice in our community, and poverty wages worsen classism and racism at the University and beyond.

The risks that students take by striking--including forgoing the paltry wages they already receive--exacerbates these threats to health, and demonstrates their commitment to and the necessity of better wages and working conditions. In order to best promote the health and well-being of all in the UIC community, graduate workers deserve a living wage, less burdensome fees, and transparency in the hiring process. UIC should, as an institution, be a driver toward equity in pay and workers' wellbeing, but it is currently doing the opposite.

Historically, academic institutions have profited off of the labor, recognition, and prestige that their graduate workers contribute, often at the expense of their health and wellbeing. A budget can be understood as a list of priorities, and by not prioritizing fair contracts for graduate workers, UIC has made it all too clear that they are not prioritizing the wellbeing of these students. Establishing a fair contract that meets the needs of graduate workers and enables them to thrive would help rectify these injustices, and would pave the way for a more just, equitable, and healthy university system that benefits all.

We urge the Chancellor, Provost, and UIC Administrators to recognize the public health imperative of meeting the GEO's demands, take the necessary steps to end the strike as quickly as possible, and create a contract that prioritizes student health and welfare.

RPH is an association of students, alumni, faculty, staff, practitioners, and community members that seeks to address the systemic, underlying causes of public health challenges and to consider more radical solutions. If you'd like to learn more about RPH or get involved in our activities, please email 

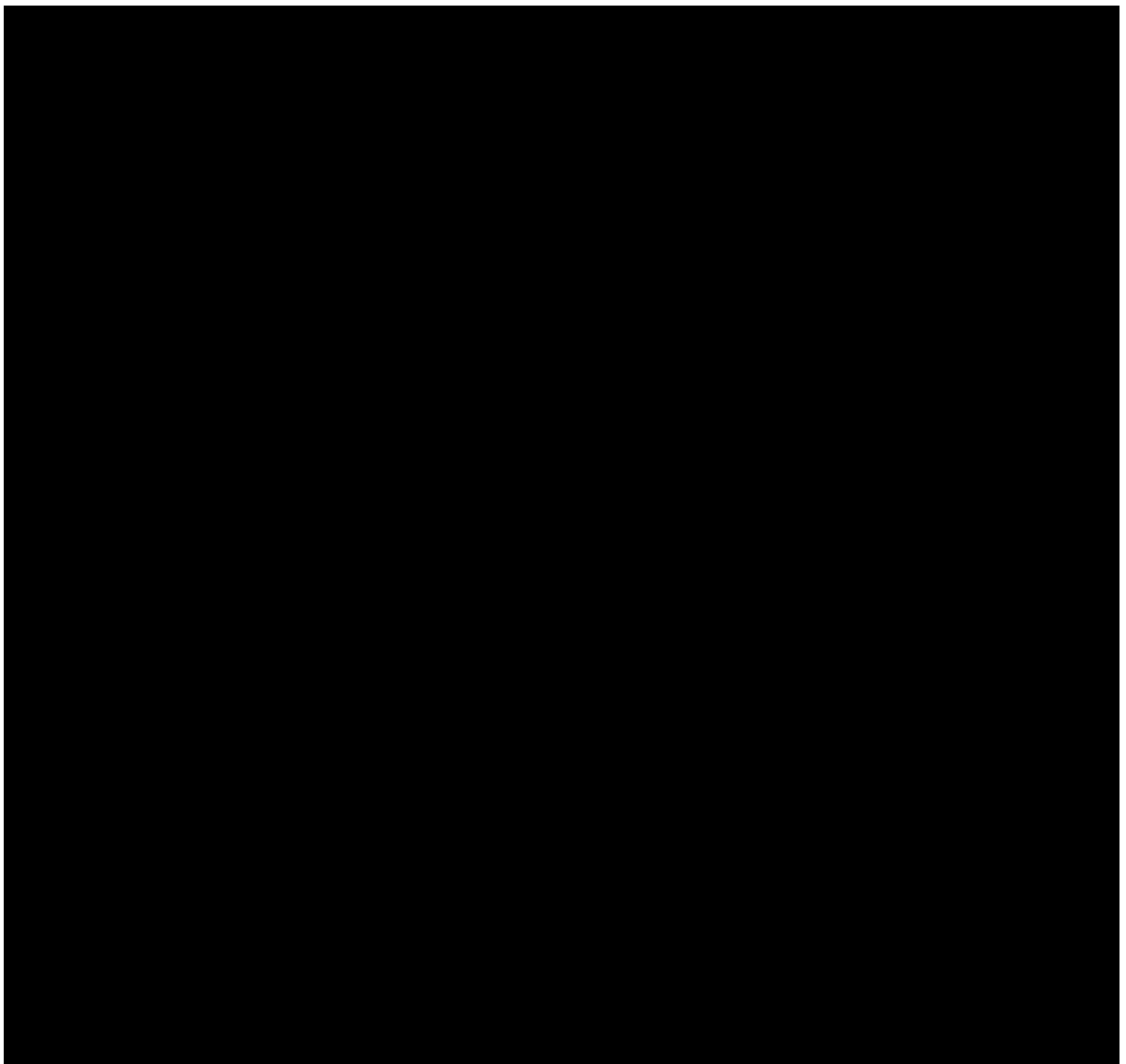
From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [ginsburg@uillinois.edu](#); [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019 6:50:47 PM

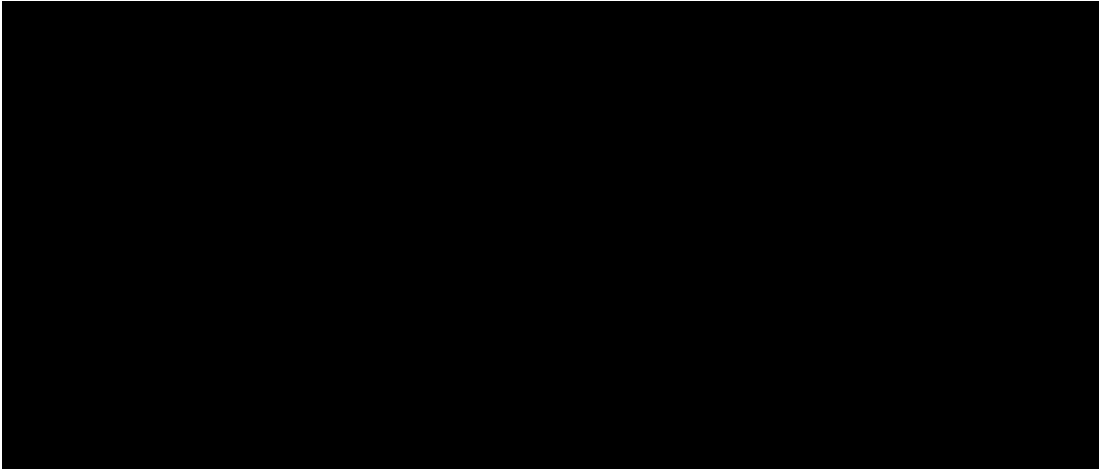
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Schuhrke [REDACTED] >
Date: March 30, 2019 at 3:30:27 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update

Dear grad workers,






In solidarity,
GEO Bargaining Team

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Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:
<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at 

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#); ginsburg@uillinois.edu
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 5:51:13 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Schuhrke [REDACTED] >
Date: March 28, 2019 at 4:30:57 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED] t
Subject: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In solidarity,
GEO Bargaining Team

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at



The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#); ginsburg@uillinois.edu
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 2:23:09 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Schuhrke [REDACTED] >
Date: March 26, 2019 at 2:11:10 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update

Dear grad workers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In solidarity,
GEO Bargaining Team

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at
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Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at [REDACTED]

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#); ginsburg@uillinois.edu
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:49:26 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Schuhrke [REDACTED] >
Date: March 30, 2019 at 3:51:05 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [uicgeo] GEO Bargaining Update

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Sat, Mar 30, 2019 at 3:30 PM Jeff Schuhrke <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>
wrote:

Dear grad workers,

[REDACTED] began.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at



The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#); ginsburg@uillinois.edu
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO: Reminders about Pay and Reporting/Retaliation
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2019 4:52:03 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Tefft <[REDACTED]>
Date: March 31, 2019 at 3:35:09 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] GEO: Reminders about Pay and Reporting/Retaliation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] !

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at [REDACTED]

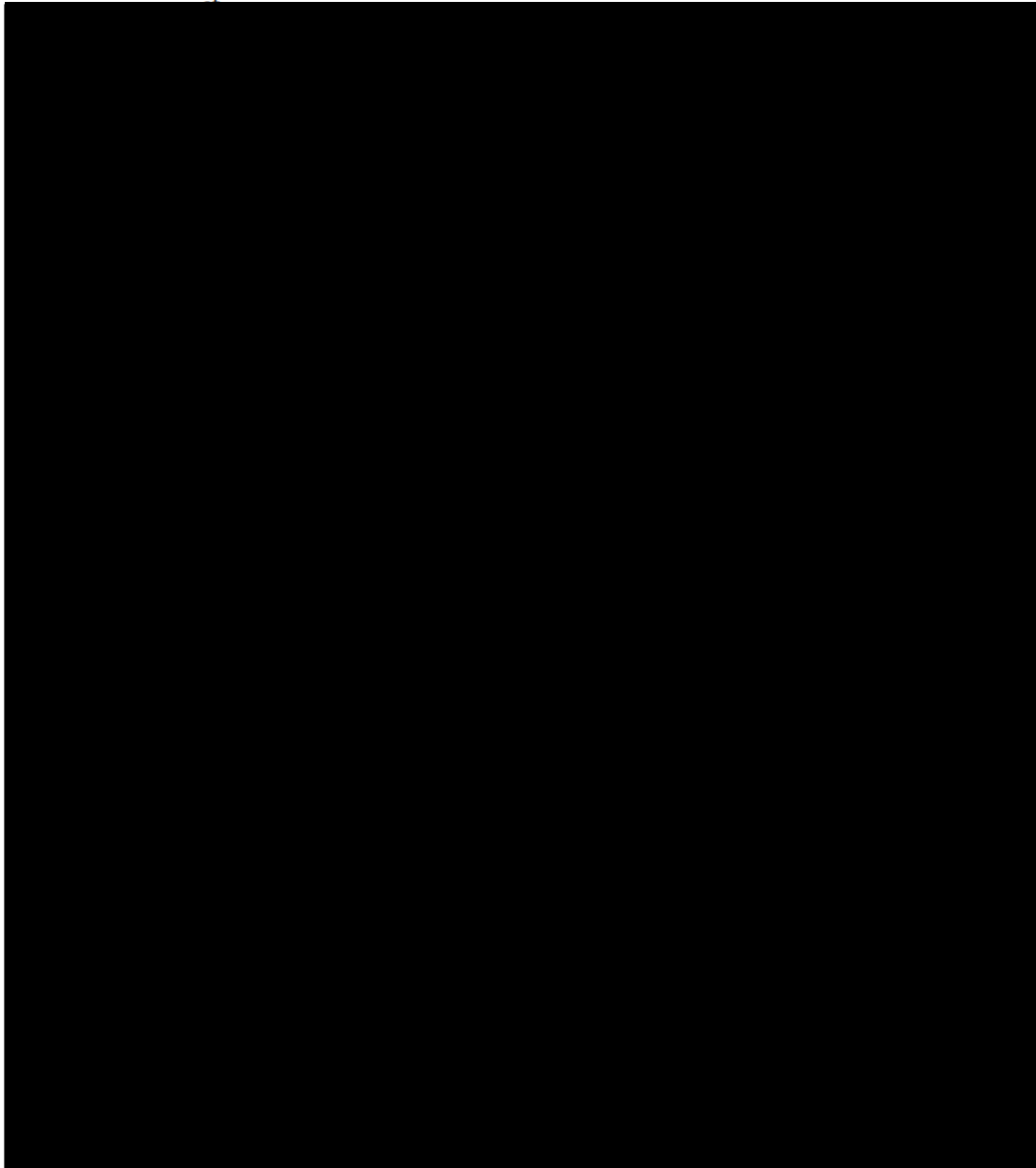
The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.


From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#); ginsburg@uillinois.edu
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] GEO's Pickets Resume + Chicago Symphony Strikers Perform For Us
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2019 4:57:39 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Tefft <[REDACTED]>
Date: March 31, 2019 at 4:51:01 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] GEO's Pickets Resume + Chicago Symphony Strikers Perform For Us

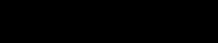




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Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at 

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [To replace the OAA Exchange distribution list](#)
To: UICDEANS@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] Strike Continues Tomorrow, Close to Settlement
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 7:40:15 AM

This is where we are. Hang in there

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

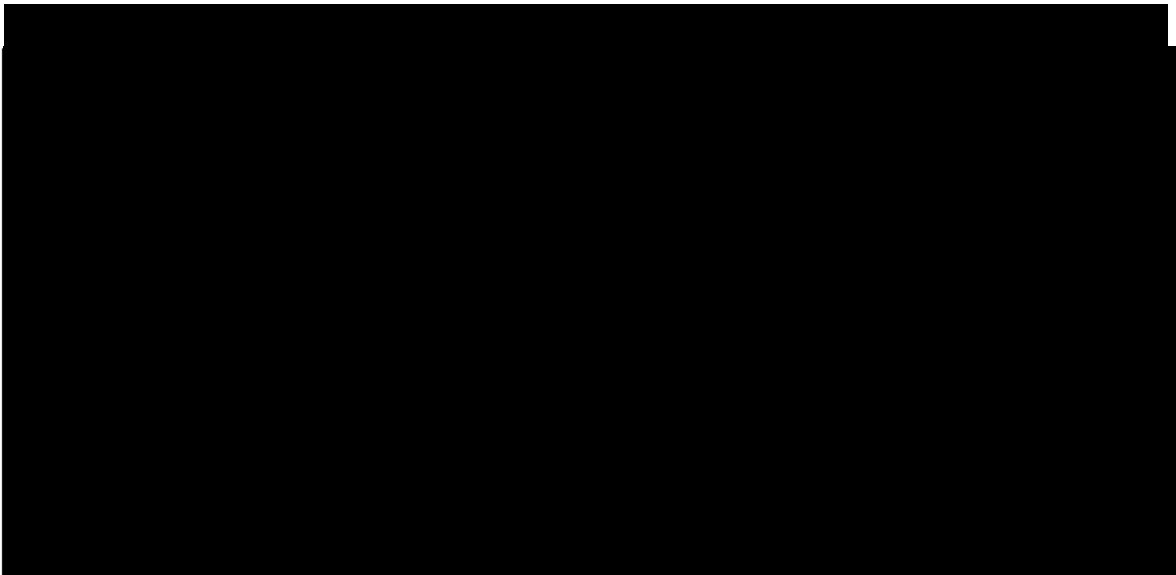
From: El-Amin, Aisha <aelami2@uic.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2019 10:10 PM
To: Poser, Susan; ginsburg@uillinois.edu
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] Strike Continues Tomorrow, Close to Settlement

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Tefft [REDACTED] >
Date: April 4, 2019 at 9:52:51 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] Strike Continues Tomorrow, Close to Settlement

WE HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO A CONTRACT BUT ARE ON STRIKE UNTIL WE
REACH SETTLEMENT ON THE TERMS THAT ALLOW US TO END THE STRIKE.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>

Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at [REDACTED]

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#); ginsburg@uillinois.edu
Subject: Fwd: [uicgeo] UPDATE: progress in negotiations, but still on strike
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 10:45:56 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Schuhrke <[REDACTED]>
Date: April 3, 2019 at 10:36:17 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] UPDATE: progress in negotiations, but still on strike

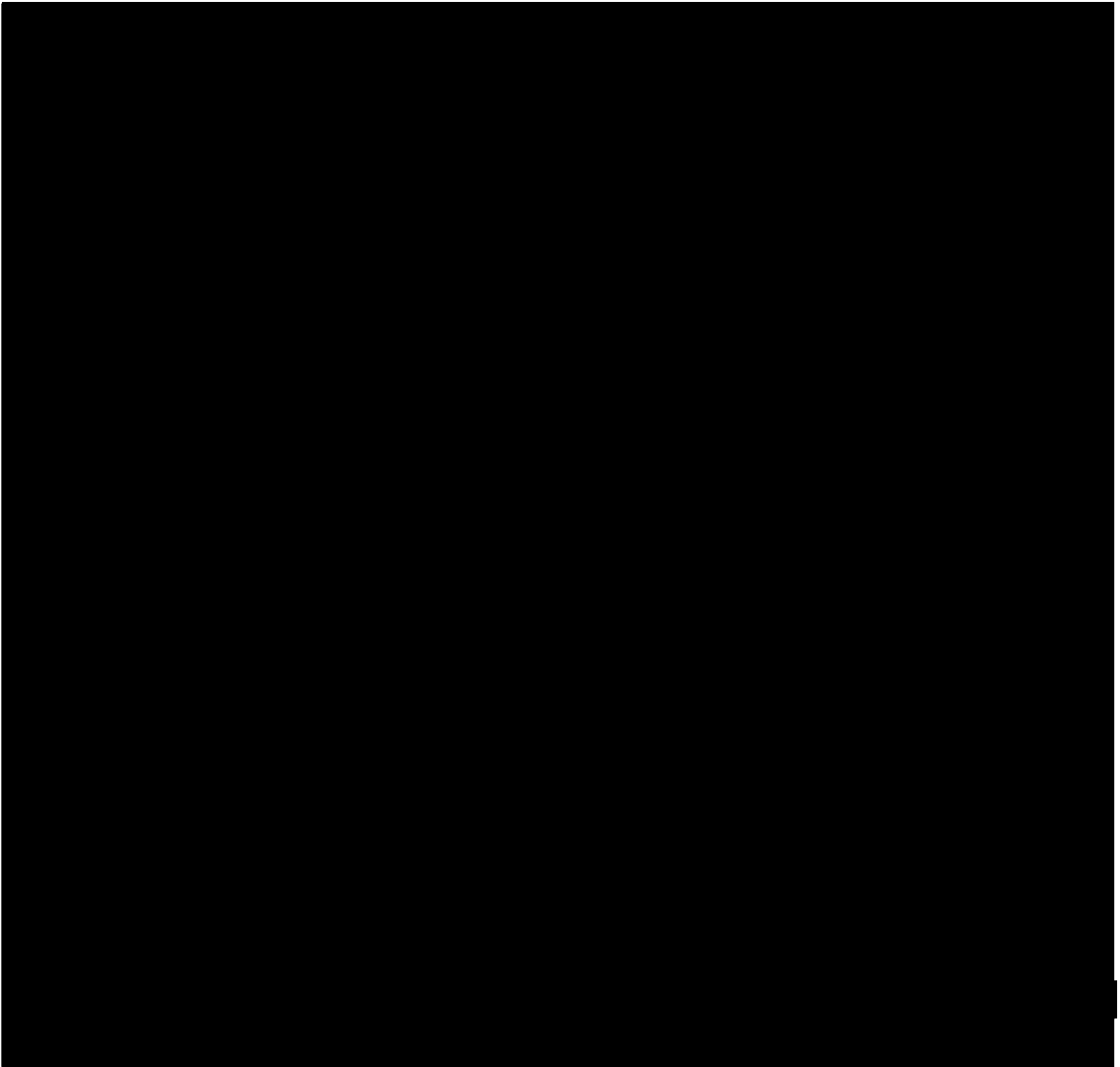
Dear grad workers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



In solidarity,
GEO Bargaining Team

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:
<http://www.uic-geo.net/>
Email us at t

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [Tantillo, Astrida Orle](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cease Interfering with TAs Right to Strike
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 1:01:12 PM

Dear Susan,

FYI—this is in response to your email from this morning to GEO members.

Astrida

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brooke Shipley <shipleyb@uic.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Cease Interfering with TAs Right to Strike
Date: March 19, 2019 at 12:47:32 PM CDT
To: Michael Ginsburg <ginsburg@uic.edu>
Cc: keinor@uillinois.edu, keinor@uic.edu, "Tantillo, Astrida Orle" <tantillo@uic.edu>, "Majumdar, Dibyen" <dibyen@uic.edu>, "Alpern, Richard A" <ralpern@uic.edu>

FYI.

I'd appreciate advice about next steps.
I'll forward the email in question next.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Wesley Townsend [REDACTED] >
Date: Tue, Mar 19, 2019, 12:32 PM
Subject: Cease Interfering with TAs Right to Strike
To: <jltucker@uic.edu>
Cc: All All <hey-all@math.uic.edu>

Dear Joyce,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,
Wes Townsend
UIC GEO Bargaining Chair
Local 6297 IFT-AFT AFL-CIO

Astrida Orle Tantillo

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor of Germanic Studies and History

University of Illinois at Chicago

601 S. Morgan Street

425 University Hall, MC 228

Chicago, IL 60607

(312) 413-7329

tantillo@uic.edu

www.las.uic.edu

From: Wesley Townsend
To: [UIC Chancellor](#); [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: GEO Bargaining
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 6:57:29 AM

Dear Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,
Wes Townsend
UIC GEO Bargaining Chair

From: [Ruby Kirsten A \(UIUC\)](#)
To: [Poser Susan](#)
Subject: NEWS AND TRENDS, April 5, 2019
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 8:44:14 AM

[Click here to see this online](#)

University of Illinois System Office for University Relations Media Advisory



NEWS AND TRENDS, April 5, 2019

- 1 – U of I officials defend need for increased state funding, SJR, Apr 4
- 2 – Legislators ask UI to help cover shortfall in College Illinois program, NG, Apr 5
- 3 – Deal reached with U of Illinois-Chicago; strike continues, WGN, Apr 5
- 4 – UIC Researchers Aim to Detect Brain Disease Earlier with \$1.4M Grant, WTTW, Apr 4
- 5 – Journalism tries to adapt, Illinois Times, Apr 4
- 6 – Peoria Innovation Alliance will work to spark growth through remembering the past, WEEK, Apr 4
- 7 – Judge denies bid for MBA from UI student dismissed after sex-assault accusations, NG, Apr 5

- 8 – Higher education advocates find new optimism at Illinois Capitol, Herald&Review, Apr 4
- 9 – Tutors, private test prep coaches, homework therapists. Rich kids have all the academic advantages money can buy. But at what cost?, Tribune, Apr 5
- 10 – Illinois projects \$100K profit from beer sales at sporting events in 1st year, Tribune, Apr 4
- 11 – Did Babe Ruth's legendary 1919 Tampa home run really go 587 feet?, KTVU, Apr 4

1 – U of I officials defend need for increased state funding

The University of Illinois system is seeking a 16.5 percent increase in funding, which would help the campuses with faculty recruitment and retention and financial aid to encourage high school students to stay in state, officials said Thursday.

The system is seeking \$692.5 million in operating funds, according to Timothy Killeen, the U of I president.

And although the request is a double-digit increase over last year, if the dollars are adjusted for inflation, it is still below the funding level for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, he noted.

"We do feel that the state should be investing more in public higher education," Killeen told the committee, adding that university officials were "delighted" to see Gov. J.B. Pritzker put an emphasis on education in his budget proposal.

The U of I is also requesting \$722.4 million for capital needs, including repairs and renovations across the system. Some would also go toward upgrading libraries at each campus.

...

<https://www.sj-r.com/news/20190404/u-of-i-officials-defend-need-for-increased-state-funding>

See also: https://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/education/u-of-i-system-seeks-funding-hike-from-state/article_17463ce7-6dda-5d6a-bf13-b8b2ca36813f.html

2 – Legislators ask UI to help cover shortfall in College Illinois program

Some state senators want the University of Illinois and other public universities to help cover a projected shortfall in the state's prepaid-college-tuition program as part of a state bailout, to avert bigger financial problems down the road.

At an appropriations hearing on the UI's fiscal 2020 budget request, Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign, asked UI President Tim Killeen for the university's help in addressing a \$308 million unfunded liability for the College Illinois program.

For a number of reasons — including low investment returns and a drop-off in sales during the Great Recession — the program won't be able to meet all of its obligations starting in 2026.

Bennett said the other big factor was tuition inflation, citing "massive" UI tuition increases from 2000 to 2014, before a five-year tuition freeze took effect. The UI's base tuition rate rose from roughly \$3,700 to \$12,000 in that period.

That made it hard for College Illinois to earn an investment return large enough to cover future tuition costs, he said.

...

Killeen acknowledged Bennett's point, noting that he wasn't president in the early 2000s, but also said the tuition increases came in response to steeply declining state support during that period.

Another factor was the state's guaranteed-tuition law, which keeps tuition flat for four years for each incoming class, he said. The UI increased freshman rates each year in response.

"I've been told our university had no input in investments" or contract pricing for College Illinois, Killeen added.

He said the UI can't absorb a \$300 million shortfall but is willing to work with legislators on that and other underlying structural problems.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-05/legislators-ask-ui-help-cover-shortfall-college-illinois-program.html>

3 – Deal reached with U of Illinois-Chicago; strike continues

A union representing graduate student employees at the University of Illinois at Chicago says they're

staying on strike despite reaching a tentative contract agreement with the school.

The union announced Thursday night that the 3-year agreement will help ensure more financial stability for graduate workers. It says, however, the administration's bargaining team didn't have the authority negotiate on issues such as how graduate workers can make up lost pay for their time on strike.

The university confirmed to the Chicago Sun-Times that an agreement was reached but declined further comment.

The Chicago Tribune reports at least 550 classes taught by assistants were canceled from March 19 to March 22, early in the walkout by members of the Graduate Employees Organization.

...

<https://wgntv.com/2019/04/05/deal-reached-with-u-of-illinois-chicago-strike-continues/>

See also: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/business/university-illinois-chicago-uic-teaching-graduate-assistants-strike/>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-at-chicago-strike-classes-20190404-story.html>

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/uic-grad-workers-tentative-contract-but-strike-continues/6778bbec-befa-45b8-a2e6-3d26e2e55072>

4 – UIC Researchers Aim to Detect Brain Disease Earlier with \$1.4M Grant

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago are developing imaging techniques that will allow them to study small changes in the retina that could indicate the early stages of brain diseases.

Their work is being funded by a \$1.4 million, four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. The research will look at how changes in the connections between nerves and blood vessels in the retina are related to the development of eye diseases, like age-related macular degeneration, and brain diseases, like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

"Many times, the only way we can tell there is a disease is once clinical symptoms appear, but the disease process starts long before that," said Xincheng Yao, a professor of bioengineering, ophthalmology and visual sciences at UIC who's leading the research.

Researchers believe the imaging technique known as the optical coherence tomography and OCT angiography (OCTA) technique could be used to discover diseases earlier by detecting minute changes other imaging techniques cannot.

...

<https://news.wttw.com/2019/04/04/uic-researchers-aim-detect-brain-disease-earlier-14m-grant>

5 – Journalism tries to adapt

At one point in time, the newspaper business was seen as a "cash cow," says Jon Whitney, Illinois Press Foundation board member and publisher of Carroll County Review. But there's been a sharp decline in print advertising revenue since 2006, when it peaked at \$49.3 billion, according to a 2018 report from Pew Research. By 2016, print media advertising revenue had declined to \$18.3 billion, less than half of what it had been generating just a decade earlier.

The time of locally owned newspapers is almost a thing of the past with most publications now part of chains with corporate owners who care primarily about the bottom line.

The revenue concerns at the top of media corporations have trickled down to those working in skeleton newsrooms across the country, where sources in this story have seen their colleagues and friends lose jobs due to layoffs, leaving them to wonder if they would be next.

...

University of Illinois Springfield offers a master's level Public Affairs Reporting program, which is similar to University of Kansas' advanced media undergraduate course. The UIS program has been in existence since 1972 but recently has needed to reduce the number of students admitted to the program due to the declining number of Statehouse bureaus.

Wheeler, who now serves as the PAR adviser since retiring from the Chicago Sun-Times in August of 1993, said the program is committed to placing students in a Statehouse reporting internship for real-world experience.

...

<https://illinoistimes.com/article-21095-journalism-tries-to-adapt.html>

6 – Peoria Innovation Alliance will work to spark growth through remembering the past

Innovation is one of those popular buzz words you hear all the time. But what it means to some greater Peoria businesses is creating more than just buzz. Alliance Founder and Executive Director Jake Hamann says many of these cutting edge business are unheard of in the community. "One is called Enduvo, one's called Natural Fiber Welding, another is called Bump Boxes. When I talk to citizens here they don't even know they exist, but a lot of them are here in our backyard," explained Hamann.

Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis says innovation can mean a lot of things, but for businesses in Central Illinois, it means learning from the past. "It's the ability to look at the new and better ways to provide that to the consumers that will create business and create jobs," said Ardis. He said there is a lot to be proud of in the Peoria community. "From the Ag Lab to a lot of the R and D (research and development) being done by Caterpillar, and the college of medicine and all of our hospitals. We're talking a billion dollars a year being spent in the Peoria area," explained Ardis.

...

<https://week.com/news/top-stories/2019/04/04/peoria-innovation-alliance-will-work-to-spark-growth-through-remembering-the-past/>

7 – Judge denies bid for MBA from UI student dismissed after sex-assault accusations

U.S. District Judge Colin Bruce has denied an emergency request to grant a University of Illinois MBA degree to a former student accused of sexual assault.

The student filed a federal lawsuit last month arguing his due-process rights had been violated during the UI's investigation and said he faces termination at his job in Boston if he doesn't have his degree by April 15.

The student, an Indian citizen identified only as "John Doe," had also been planning on having his employer sponsor him for his visa, which expires June 30.

He was accused by another MBA student of sexual assault after he graduated in May 2018, but before he had received his degree.

A panel found him responsible for sexual assault, and after two appeals, he was eventually dismissed from the UI.

Bruce denied his emergency request this week, concluding that the lawsuit was improperly filed.

The main problem, Bruce said, is that Doe is suing the UI Board of Trustees as an entity, rather than as individuals.

Under the 11th Amendment to the Constitution, people can't sue a state, though lawsuits against individual state officials are allowed if they're violating federal law.

Bruce also took issue with the proposed remedy of granting Doe an MBA degree.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-05/judge-denies-bid-mba-ui-student-dismissed-after-sex-assault-accusations.html>

8 – Higher education advocates find new optimism at Illinois Capitol

There was much ado about higher education in the Illinois Capitol Thursday, as lawmakers discussed funding increases for higher education, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a bill to strengthen a financial aid program and higher education advocates rallied on the Capitol rotunda.

Pritzker signed House Bill 2505, allowing universities to retain unused funding for the Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education, or AIM HIGH, program. The program helps students who meet income and performance requirement obtain financial aid at state universities.

Pritzker signed the bill, which was passed during the previous General Assembly, at Southeast High School in Springfield.

"After many years of a declining percentage of Illinois students choosing to stay in state, AIM HIGH is helping us change that dynamic, making it more affordable for students and their families to choose

to stay here,” Pritzker said in remarks released by his office after the signing.

...

https://herald-review.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/higher-education-advocates-find-new-optimism-at-illinois-capitol/article_48b93614-a1b6-55ff-a727-c86c338c5558.html

See also: <https://www.daily-chronicle.com/2019/04/04/gov-pritzkers-aim-high-legislation-strengthens-aim-high-grant-program-increase-enrollment/ar7rj0/>

9 – Tutors, private test prep coaches, homework therapists. Rich kids have all the academic advantages money can buy. But at what cost?

It's 3:30 on a Wednesday afternoon in north suburban Glencoe, one of the wealthiest towns in the U.S. The quiet, brick-lined streets of the business district are about to get louder. Two blocks away, the town's middle school has just let out, and packs of kids are pouring into Starbucks for a \$4 lemonade or hot chocolate. But a few are headed to the town's newest business, The House, which calls itself the world's first tutoring lounge.

The \$250 per month cost buys membership to this hip hangout with on-demand tutoring. Like any private club, it has rules. Members may bring a guest. All are welcome, except one group — parents. With music thumping and a fun pop-art wall mural at the entrance, it doesn't resemble anyone's stereotype of a tutoring center. Sixth- through 12th-graders are gathering on colorful floor pillows, swinging chairs, modern comfy couches and glass-walled rooms with fireplaces where they can study together. Come 4:30 p.m., the music is turned down, and a team of tutors starts roaming about to see who needs help, similar to an Apple Genius Bar. Five- to 10-minute tutoring is included in the monthly membership. Kids who need more time can book half-hour increments for \$50 at the touch of a button, on a custom-designed app called homework.sucks. Clearly these people understand kids.

Lisa Micele also understands kids. As director of college counseling at the University of Illinois Laboratory High School in Urbana, she worries that the big business of tutoring (some analysts predict it will reach \$227 billion globally by 2022) may keep kids from being schooled in other important life lessons. “We all want kids to take pride in their learning and be equipped with healthy coping skills when they fail. When they rely on outside help to keep them organized, push them ahead and coach them on every test, I worry about their self-advocacy and time management skills,” says Micele. “I also worry about a student's positive self-concept of themselves. I had a student tell me they weren't proud of their high SAT score because they only accomplished it through someone else's help.”

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/sc-fam-wealthy-kids-education-advantages-0409-story.html>

10 – Illinois projects \$100K profit from beer sales at sporting events in 1st year

Athletics officials at the University of Illinois say the decision to sell beer in general seating areas at football and basketball games could net the school over \$100,000 in the first year.

Illini officials announced Tuesday that beer can be purchased at several stands around Memorial Stadium starting this fall. The News-Gazette reports that associate athletic director Marty Kaufmann notes overhead costs will likely lower profits in year one.

Alcoholic beverages will still be sold in premium seating areas.

A share of sales will pay for additional security at games, although Kaufmann expects fewer alcohol-related incidents. He says stadium beer sales should deter binge drinking during tailgating and discourage fans from smuggling beer inside.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/college/ct-spt-illinois-beer-sales-profit-20190404-story.html>

See also: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/illini-officials-project-100k-profit-in-stadium-beer-sales-508122731.html>

11 – Did Babe Ruth's legendary 1919 Tampa home run really go 587 feet?

On the 100th anniversary of Babe Ruth's historic home run in Tampa, several scholars are asking if it ever went the 587 feet quoted on a billboard in the spot it supposedly landed, near at the University of

Tampa.

If you were one of 4,300 at Plant Field on April 4, 1919, at what is now UT, you would have seen Babe Ruth, his mammoth swing, and maybe the farthest homer ever hit.

"They were just astonished by how far it went," said Babe Ruth scholar Jane Leavy.

Back in 1919, there was a racetrack near the Tampa Hotel with a ballfield in the middle.

"It went over the rail of the racetrack and just kept going," Leavy said of Ruth's legendary home run.

The right-fielder showed reporters where it landed. The Boston Globe then marched off 189 paces of slightly more than three feet. They called the homer a "boost" and said it was certainly more than 540 feet. Leavy says estimates range from 540 feet to 625 feet.

"Nobody had seen anything like this before," said Leavy. "Babe Ruth was inventing and announcing power baseball with that swing."

...

University of Illinois professor Alan Nathan says under optimal conditions, but without wind, the farthest a big-league homer can go is just under 500 feet. That requires the ball to be hit at an exit velocity of 120 miles per hour. That figure is well beyond most recorded today.

"Given a dispute between science and mythology, I am going to take the science," said Nathan.

...

<http://www.ktvu.com/sports/did-babe-ruth-s-1919-tampa-home-run-really-go-587-feet->

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Michael Amiridis on Instagram: <http://chancellor.uic.edu/instagram-feed/>

Robert Jones on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illinchancellor/>

Susan Koch's Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/ChancellorKoch>

Twitter: [@UofILSystem](#) | [@illinois_alma](#) | [@thisisUIC](#) | [@UISedu](#)

Facebook: [@uillinois.edu](#) | [@illinois.edu](#) | [@uic.edu](#) | [@uis.edu](#)

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From: Kirsten Ruby
To: [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: NEWS AND TRENDS, March 20, 2019
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 8:42:21 AM

[Click here to see this online](#)

University of Illinois System Office for University Relations Media Advisory



NEWS AND TRENDS, March 20, 2019

- 1 – Pritzker sets strict funding conditions for South Loop research center, Crain's, Mar 20
- 2 – U. of Illinois at Chicago Missed Warning Signs of Research Going Awry, Letters Show, CHE, Mar 20
- 3 – UI gets grant to pursue tobacco-free Champaign-Urbana campus, WAND, Mar 19
- 4 – Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us', Tribune, Mar 19
- 5 – The Unpaid Adjunct Ad That Wasn't (?), IHE, Mar 20
- 6 – High schoolers surprised with UIC scholarships aimed at addressing lack of black male

teachers, Tribune, Mar 19

7 – How Many Public Universities Can 'Go Big' Online?, IHE, Mar 20

8 – Inspector general report finds Randy Dunn mishandled multiple hirings, Daily Egyptian, Mar 18

9 – Closing the book on the sorry saga of Illinois' prepaid tuition plan, Crain's, Mar 19

10 – 'Do You Pull the Parchment?': Students Caught Up in College Admissions Scandal Now Face a Reckoning, NYT, Mar 19

1 – Pritzker sets strict funding conditions for South Loop research center

The future of a huge research center in the South Loop once again is in grave doubt after the Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration added what appears to be onerous new conditions to state funding for the University of Illinois' Discovery Partners Institute.

The new governor in January told Crain's he wanted the research facility to fly even though it originally was proposed by the man he unseated, Bruce Rauner. Pritzker said the university would have to line up private funds rather than merely depending on the \$500 million in state cash that Rauner allotted, but suggested that was doable.

However, now comes word that Pritzker not only wants the university to match the \$500 million in state cash dollar-for-dollar, but wants the entire \$500 million in private funding in hand before any state money is released. That means that a public school with lots of financial challenges will have to raise \$500 million on its own first, a huge and perhaps insurmountable challenge.

The latest Pritzker questions came after Crain's inquired about language in Pritzker's proposed fiscal 2020 budget, which was unveiled in February.

The budget reappropriates the \$500 million that was budgeted last year, but describes it not as a grant but a state match for private donations from individuals, corporations or other entities. The budget language adds that "state matching funds will only be released if the corresponding private donations are secured."

...

"The University of Illinois System is deeply grateful for Gov. Pritzker's support and \$500 million in matching funds as part of his proposed fiscal 2020 budget," its spokesman said in a statement. "The U of I System is working closely with the administration in support of this grant and other initiatives in the governor's budget that support higher education, discovery, entrepreneurship and job creation."

Pritzker's move also could impact other university projects above and beyond DPI. As my colleague Lynne Marek reported last summer, the University of Illinois at Chicago hoped to tap some of that \$500 million to build new computer science and drug research buildings. But none of that money was released before Rauner left office, and Pritzker now has imposed this new condition.

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/greg-hinz-politics/pritzker-sets-strict-funding-conditions-south-loop-research-center>

See also: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/columnists/ori/ct-biz-2019-chicago-megadevelopments-to-watch-ryan-ori-20181207-story.html>

2 – U. of Illinois at Chicago Missed Warning Signs of Research Going Awry, Letters Show

For a year, the University of Illinois at Chicago has played down its shortcomings in overseeing the work of a prominent child psychiatrist who violated research protocols and put vulnerable children with bipolar disorder at risk.

But documents newly obtained by ProPublica Illinois show that the university acknowledged to federal officials that it had missed several warning signs that Mani Pavuluri's clinical trial on lithium had gone off track, eventually requiring the university to pay an unprecedented \$3.1-million penalty to the federal government.

The university's Institutional Review Board, known as an IRB, the committee responsible for protecting research subjects, improperly fast-tracked approval of Pavuluri's clinical trial, didn't catch serious omissions from the consent forms parents had to sign, and allowed children to enroll in the study even though they weren't eligible, the documents show.

The IRB's shortcomings violated federal regulations meant to protect human subjects, putting it in

“serious non-compliance,” according to one of five letters from university officials to the federal government the university turned over to ProPublica Illinois after a nearly yearlong appeal for the documents under open-records laws.

Still, university officials have continued to blame only Pavuluri. In written statements, the university told ProPublica Illinois last year — and again this week — that “internal safeguards did not fail” and that researchers are “responsible for the ethical and professional conduct” of their projects.

...

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/U-of-Illinois-at-Chicago/245931>

See also: <https://www.propublica.org/article/university-of-illinois-chicago-uic-research-misconduct-letters-documents>

3 – UI gets grant to pursue tobacco-free Champaign-Urbana campus

The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana has received a grant to pursue a tobacco-free campus. Grants from the CVS Health Foundation and the American Cancer Society will support efforts to advocate for, adopt and implement smoke- and tobacco-free policies. That would include limiting the use of e-cigarettes.

CVS Health announced it has provided a total of \$20,000 in grants through the CVS Health Foundation to the University of Illinois.

It is part of a more than \$1.4 million grant pool to 82 schools across the country.

The grants are delivered in partnership with the American Cancer Society and Truth Initiative.

...

https://www.wandtv.com/news/ui-gets-grant-to-pursue-tobacco-free-champaign-urbana-campus/article_1a8ec234-4a5d-11e9-b8e3-63f4ced95966.html

See also: <https://foxillinois.com/news/local/u-of-i-looks-to-make-campus-100-tobacco-smoke-free>

4 – Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: ‘We have to fight for the school to care about us’

Graduate student employees at the University of Illinois at Chicago, saying they don’t earn a living wage, went on strike Tuesday after more than a year of contract negotiations failed to produce a new work agreement.

Graduate and teaching assistants formed picket lines outside of several east campus buildings and held an afternoon rally and march.

“We have students going to food pantries and going on food assistance,” said doctoral candidate Hailee Yoshizaki-Gibbons, 33.

Leaders of the Graduate Employees Organization, which represents more than 1,500 graduate student university workers, said they plan to strike indefinitely. Their previous contract expired in September, and 99.5 percent of members formally authorized a strike in February, the union said.

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multibillion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.”

A university statement from Chancellor Michael Amiridis, Provost Susan Poser and Vice Chancellor Robert Barish said the university has participated in 22 negotiating sessions, including five with a federal mediator.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-chicago-graduate-assistants-strike-20190319-story.html>

See also: <https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/university-of-illinois-at-chicago-grad-students-strike-over-wages-and-fees/81321858-eb8b-4de9-ae56-7e94db2c163d>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/03/20/grad-assistants-strike-u-illinois-chicago>

5 – The Unpaid Adjunct Ad That Wasn't (?)

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign got skewered on social media Tuesday for advertising “0 percent, [full-time equivalent], unpaid” adjunct faculty positions in social work, human behavior and social environment, and related areas. Minimum requirements included a master’s degree in social work and prior teaching experience. Duties included preparing and teaching classes weekly.

The online job ad said that an adjunct search committee will screen applicants to determine whether they are a “good fit” for the program and, “If considered to teach future courses, salary will be offered.” Many readers understood the ad to mean that adjuncts would have to initially teach for free, as a kind of audition for additional courses -- and a salary. And they criticized Illinois for apparently exploiting a bad academic job market for free labor. Illinois wouldn’t be the only institution accused of doing so. Last year, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale asked its professors to ask alumni to assist with faculty work.

Illinois quickly changed the ad to clarify that applicants will merely apply to be included in a pool of preapproved faculty candidates -- not to work for free, it says. Steven Anderson, dean of Illinois’s School of Social Work, explained via email that the original post was “soliciting applicants who would be given 0 percent appointments in the school and therefore vetted and available to teach specific courses in the future as the school needed.”

...

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/03/20/unpaid-adjunct-ad-wasnt>

6 – High schoolers surprised with UIC scholarships aimed at addressing lack of black male teachers

At Butler College Prep on the Far South Side, five seniors and a recent graduate were surprised on Tuesday afternoon with scholarships offered through a program aimed at addressing the lack of male African-American teachers in the country’s schools.

As members of the second class of Call Me MISTER scholars, the teenagers were awarded full scholarships to study education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Classmates cheered as the students put on red and blue baseball caps at an end-of-day assembly.

“I was in shock to hear my name called,” said Teon Nesbitt, one of the recipients. “I’m an athlete, so I’m not used to being portrayed as an educator. But I work hard in class and on the court. So it just shows that you can be anything you want to.”

Last fall, UIC launched the MISTER program — Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models — which recruits and trains male elementary education majors of color. Only an estimated 2 percent of teachers in public schools across the country — where half of those enrolled are students of color — are African-American men, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-uic-call-me-mister-scholarships-20190319-story.html>

7 – How Many Public Universities Can ‘Go Big’ Online?

From Massachusetts to California, as many as two dozen state university systems, individual flagship campuses and other public universities are talking publicly (or quietly) about undertaking ambitious online learning initiatives.

Some are focused on enrollment or revenue growth, some on better serving the millions of working adults or other populations of Americans that traditional higher education has historically struggled to reach.

Some aim to join the ranks of regional or even national players like Arizona State, Southern New Hampshire and Western Governors Universities; others strive to retake or hold on to state residents now studying online at institutions elsewhere.

“The time for us to act is now,” Marty Meehan, president of the University of Massachusetts, said in announcing the system’s online plan in a speech last month. “It’s predicted that over the next several years four to five major national players with strong regional footholds will be established. We intend to be one of them.”

...

But numerous public universities have suffered high-profile failures or false starts in efforts to

launch major online operations -- most notably the University of Illinois's Global Campus, a separate online arm that the California State University System sought to build, and multiple stunted efforts by the University of Texas system.

...

<https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2019/03/20/states-and-university-systems-are-planning-major-online>

8 – Inspector general report finds Randy Dunn mishandled multiple hirings

Former SIU President Randy J. Dunn improperly hired late Chancellor Carlo Montemagno's daughter and son-in-law as well as SIU's vice president for academic affairs, according to an Illinois Office of the Executive Inspector General report, the findings of which were obtained by the Daily Egyptian.

Dunn entered a separation agreement with the Board of Trustees last July after it was discovered he coordinated with SIU Edwardsville administrators and legislators in an attempt to dissolve the university system.

The agreement stated Dunn would be entitled to a visiting professor position at SIUE for at least 18 months unless an external agency made a finding of his wrongdoing.

The agreement also stated Dunn's employment would cease immediately and automatically upon the issuance of any findings showing he violated SIU System or Illinois policy.

The Office of the Executive Inspector General recommended Dunn not be rehired within the SIU system due to the violation of his contract.

...

<https://dailyegyptian.com/92707/showcase/inspector-general-report-finds-randy-dunn-mishandled-multiple-hirings/>

9 – Closing the book on the sorry saga of Illinois' prepaid tuition plan

The first rule for getting out of a hole is to stop digging.

It took a while, but Illinois legislators, who ought to know something about financial holes, seem prepared to apply that well-known principle the state's underfunded prepaid college tuition program. College Illinois has \$300 million less than it needs to pay future tuition at Illinois universities for students whose parents bought prepaid contracts in the mistaken belief they were guaranteed by the state.

In fact, the state has no legally enforceable obligation to cover the gap between College Illinois' promises and its cash. Yet marketing materials from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, which administers College Illinois, created the false impression that Illinois stands behind the contracts.

As my colleague Steve Daniels reported recently, bills pending before the Illinois House and Senate would oblige the state to honor College Illinois contracts. Both bills provide that "the full faith and credit of the State of Illinois is pledged for the punctual payment of such obligations."

Another \$300 million IOU is exactly what cash-strapped Illinois doesn't need. Yet the moral case for covering the College Illinois contracts is indisputable.

A state agency duped parents into believing they were buying guaranteed tuition at Illinois public universities. In fact, those parents were unwittingly betting on ISAC's ability to invest their contract purchase money well enough to keep pace with tuition increases at state schools. ISAC investments fell far short as tuition surged over the past two decades. Projections indicate College Illinois will start running out of money in 2026, just as more than 2,500 contract holders' kids are reaching college age. Illinois can't leave those families holding the bag.

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/joe-cahill-business/closing-book-sorry-saga-illinois-prepaid-tuition-plan>

10 – 'Do You Pull the Parchment?': Students Caught Up in College Admissions Scandal Now Face a Reckoning

The many students enmeshed in the college admissions scandal that was unveiled last week now

face a reckoning as universities seek to determine whether they were innocent victims who should keep working toward their degrees or unethical schemers worthy of discipline.

The University of Southern California said it had identified six current applicants associated with the case and would reject them. The school informed an additional number of enrolled students who were linked to the scandal that they could not register for classes until administrators had determined their level of culpability.

Yale, another university implicated in the fraud, reminded students last week of a longstanding policy to rescind the admission of students who falsify applications. A statement from Stanford said that inaccurate information on a college application was grounds for being “disenrolled” from the university or having an offer of admission rescinded, “as has happened regrettably in the past.”

The 33 wealthy parents charged with paying large sums to get their children into leading universities are the targets of criminal complaints. But it is the schools themselves that must grapple with how to mete out justice to students who gained admissions through fraudulent means.

The scope of the scandal has left many college administrators in uncharted ethical territory.

...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/us/usc-admissions-scandal.html>

See also:

<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/How-Megadonors-Can-Fight-the/245914>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2019/03/20/university-southern-california-takes-new-actions-against-students>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/sports/college-admissions-scandal-athletes.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Michael Amiridis on Instagram: <http://chancellor.uic.edu/instagram-feed/>

Robert Jones on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illinchancellor/>

Susan Koch's Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/ChancellorKoch>

Twitter: [@UofILSystem](#) | [@illinois_alma](#) | [@thisisUIC](#) | [@UISedu](#)

Facebook: [@uillinois.edu](#) | [@illinois.edu](#) | [@uic.edu](#) | [@uis.edu](#)

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OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Media contact: Tom Hardy, hardyt@uillinois.edu, 217-333-6400
General inquiries mail: [infosource](#) | [University Relations](#) | [News Releases](#)



From: Ginsburg, Michael H
To: [Poser, Susan](#); [Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios](#); [Ginsburg, Michael H](#); [Parker, Janet](#); [Mintle, Theresa Erin](#); [McGinnis Gonzalez, Sherri](#)
Subject: RE: [uicgeo] Classes Are Shut DOWN
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 11:56:49 AM

Actually it looks like many classes are being held. IT would be hard to say the number held versus closed down.

-----Original Message-----

From: Poser, Susan [<mailto:sposer@uic.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 11:55 AM
To: Amiridis, Michael D (UIC) <amiridis@uic.edu>; Ginsburg, Michael H <ginsburg@uic.edu>; Parker, Janet (UIC) <japarker@uic.edu>; Mintle, Theresa E (UIC) <mintlet@uic.edu>; McGinnis Gonzalez, Sherri L (UIC) <smcginn@uic.edu>
Subject: FW: [uicgeo] Classes Are Shut DOWN

FYI

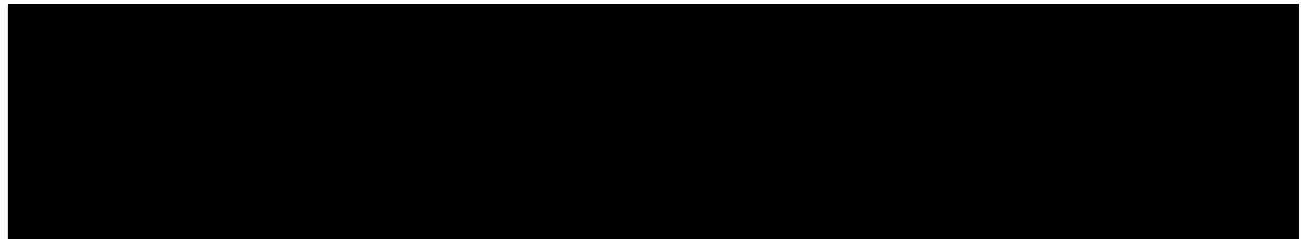
Susan Poser
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs University of Illinois at Chicago
2832 University Hall
601 S. Morgan Street

Mail Code 105
Chicago, IL 60607-7128
(312) 413-3450 / sposer@uic.edu <applewebdata://4E45F8A9-A4A3-4D39-90D4-F05D59B83554/sposer@uic.edu>
@SusanPoserUIC

On 3/19/19, 11:52 AM, "El-Amin, Aisha" <aelami2@uic.edu> wrote:

Aisha


On 3/19/19, 11:19 AM, "geo-bargainunit on behalf of Dawn Tefft" [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED] > wrote:



"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at 

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [El-Amin, Aisha](#)
To: [Ginsburg, Michael H](#)
Cc: [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: Re: [uicgeo] Strike Continues Tomorrow, Close to Settlement
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2019 10:18:36 PM

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2019, at 10:15 PM, Ginsburg, Michael H <ginsburg@uillinois.edu> wrote:

Saw it! Were you checking every five minutes for this?!!!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2019, at 10:10 PM, El-Amin, Aisha <aelami2@uic.edu> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dawn Tefft [REDACTED]
Date: April 4, 2019 at 9:52:51 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [uicgeo] Strike Continues Tomorrow, Close to Settlement

WE HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO A CONTRACT BUT
ARE ON STRIKE UNTIL WE REACH SETTLEMENT ON THE
TERMS THAT ALLOW US TO END THE STRIKE.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:
<http://www.uic-geo.net/>
Email us at [REDACTED]

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: Wilson, Barbara Jan
To: [Riley, Thomas](#)
Cc: [Killeen, Timothy L](#); [Williams, Dedra Mooday](#); [Jones, Robert J](#); [Cangellaris, Andreas C \(UIUC\)](#); [Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios](#); [Poser, Susan](#); [Barish, Robert](#); [Koch, Susan J](#); [Papini, Dennis R \(UIS\)](#); [Bearrows, Thomas](#); [Ghosh, Avijit](#); [Hardy, Thomas P](#); [Creasey, Jennifer M](#); [Clower, Laura](#); [Clements, Vicki](#); [Foran, Ellen](#)
Subject: Re: ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION RE UIC GEO set to strike tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:45:04 AM

[REDACTED]

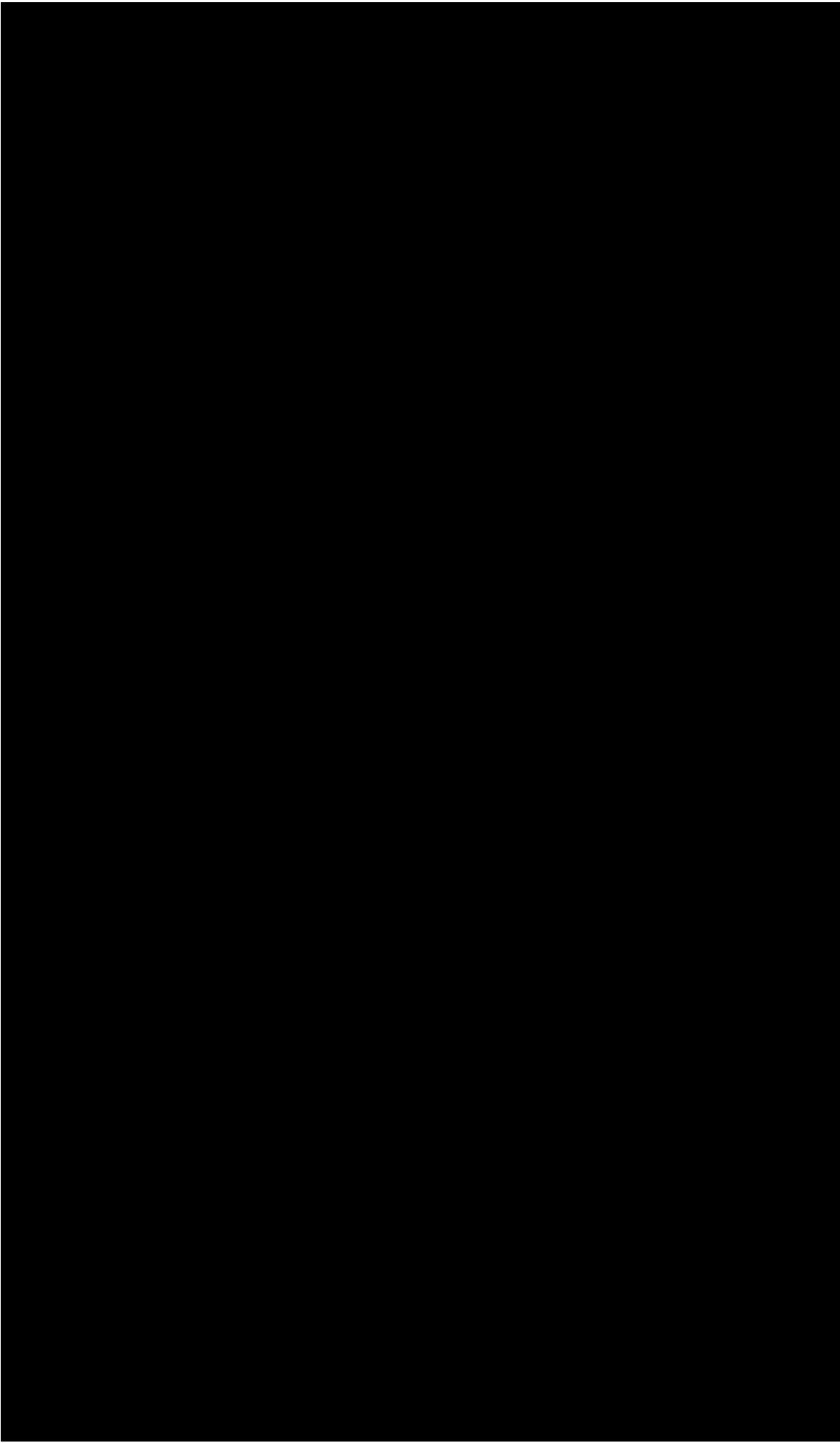
[REDACTED]

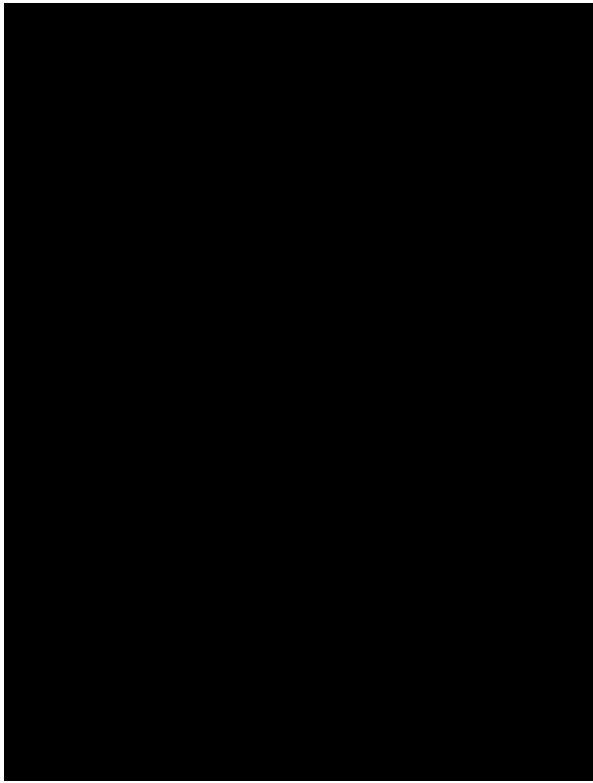
[REDACTED]

On Mar 18, 2019, at 11:56 PM, Riley, Thomas <thriley@Uillinois.edu> wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]







From: Wesley Townsend [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:57 AM
To: UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>
Subject: GEO Bargaining

Dear Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,
Wes Townsend
UIC GEO Bargaining Chair

To: UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>

Subject: GEO Bargaining

Dear Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,
Wes Townsend
UIC GEO Bargaining Chair



From: Wesley Townsend <[REDACTED]>
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:57 AM
To: UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>
Subject: GEO Bargaining

Dear Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,
Wes Townsend
UIC GEO Bargaining Chair

From: Wesley Townsend <[REDACTED]>
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:57 AM
To: UIC Chancellor <chancellor@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>
Subject: GEO Bargaining

Dear Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards,

Wes Townsend

UIC GEO Bargaining Chair

From: [To replace the OAA Exchange distribution list](#)
To: UICDEANS@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: Re: GEO Strike
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 5:39:28 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Pete and all

[REDACTED]

Susan

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nelson, Peter C <nelson@uic.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:14 AM
To: Tatum, Alfred Walter; Poser, Susan
Cc: uicdeans@listserv.uic.edu
Subject: Re: GEO Strike

Thanks Alfred for the quick response.

This is a good message and if each dean is supposed to create their own messaging I am going to borrow from you.

Pete

Pete Nelson
UIC College of Engineering

From: Alfred Tatum <atatum1@uic.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:10 AM
To: Nelson, Peter C

Cc: uicdeans@listserv.uic.edu

Subject: Re: GEO Strike

While I have not sent to following messages, I crafted the language below for our students, faculty, and chairs. I will revise based on guidance from the campus or use if we have to craft a unique message.

AWT

Dear College of Education Students,

I am writing to inform you that the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) that includes teaching assistants (TAs) and graduate assistants (GAs) has exercised its right to a work stoppage under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA). Majority of the classes taught by College of Education instructors will not be impacted by the strike. However, some classes may be canceled as a result of the strike. I have asked all instructors to communicate to you if your class will or will not be canceled. Additionally, I recommend that you reach out to your instructors via email to determine the status of your classes.

The College of Education will honor the rights of all faculty, staff, and students and ensure there are shared understandings and sufficient guidance during the strike. It may be useful for you to become familiar with the rules governing this work stoppage, some of which can be found at <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>. Please pay particular attention to student related FAQs and your right to attend classes as described below:

Students have a right to attend classes. Students, employees and members of the public have a right to enter academic and administrative buildings and to do so without being intimidated, coerced or threatened. Picketing on public property is usually lawful so long as the picketing is peaceful, does not create a disturbance and does not block entrances and exits. Picketers must not block a door, passageway, driveway, crosswalk or other entrance or exit. Union officials or picketers have a right to talk to people going into or out of campus buildings. Attempts to intimidate, threaten or coerce are not permitted, either by verbal remarks or physical action.

In the meantime, the College of Education will work on your behalf to minimize the strike's impact on you. We are available to respond to questions or concerns during the ongoing negotiations. You can reach the following offices if you have questions:

Office of Student Services - 312-413-2405

Curriculum & Instruction and Educational Policy Studies – 312-996-4509 or 312-996-4508

Educational Psychology and Special Education -312 996-5650 or 312 996-5580

Dean's Office – 312-996-5641

Alfred W. Tatum

Dean, College of Education

Dear College of Education Faculty and Staff,

The Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) that includes teaching assistants (TAs) and graduate assistants (GAs) has exercised its right to a work stoppage under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA). While the College of Education recognizes the GEO's right to strike, we have a responsibility to honor the rights of all faculty, staff, and students and ensure there are shared understandings and sufficient guidance during the strike. Therefore, I recommend that you gather information that has been provided via multiple communications regarding the status of the negotiations between the GEO, the union representing teaching assistants and graduate assistants at UIC. It may be useful to become familiar with the rules governing this work stoppage, some of which can be found at <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>.

I have recommended that all students reach out to their instructors via email to determine if their classes will or will not be canceled during the work stoppage. For faculty, it would be extremely helpful if you send an email informing students about the status of your classes. Distinguishing between teaching assistants and graduate assistants can be confusing for our students.

I am available to respond to questions or concerns during the ongoing negotiations. In the meantime, I will work closely with each of you to minimize the impact on students who are taking courses this semester. I will provide more details as they become available.

Alfred W. Tatum

Suggested Language for Department Chairs to TAs:

Dear _____,

The Department recognizes your right to strike. However, it is important that we notify students if a class is canceled. Will you please let me know if you have informed students about the status of your class? I will ensure students are notified if you decide to cancel class. I look forward to

hearing from you.

I am available to respond to all student inquiries. Or, they can contact Dr. Gena Flynn, Associate Dean of Student Affairs at gflynn@uic.edu or (312) 413-2405.

Signed,

Department Chair

On Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 11:57 PM Nelson, Peter C <nelson@uic.edu> wrote:

Susan,

Do we have any updates on the strike situation?

Also, is a message being sent to all faculty and staff regarding strike, or will each dean send out their own (unique) message? My understanding from Deans' Council last week is that there will be centralized communications coming from you, Michael G. and Janet. Or should we just forward your message to all faculty and staff?

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Pete

Pete Nelson

UIC College of Engineering

From: To replace the OAA Exchange distribution list <uicdeans@listserv.uic.edu> on behalf of Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 12:49 PM

To: uicdeans@listserv.uic.edu

Subject: GEO Strike

Dear Deans,

We are anticipating there will be a GEO strike tomorrow, though bargaining continues throughout today. I ask you to look carefully at this website <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>, which has a lot of information and should answer most of your questions. A few key points found on this website:

Graduate students can choose not to strike and to teach their classes so classes should not be cancelled en masse. However, the assumption is that everyone is striking, so the grad students who want to teach must let someone know – the dept head or HR person. We will gather that information centrally from the departments later.

Students who strike and do not teach will not be paid for those days. This is why it is so important that departments track who is and who is not on strike. Your college needs to find a way to track this.

Faculty may not strike in sympathy and are expected to teach their classes. Faculty are responsible for figuring out how to cover the material not covered when their TA chooses to strike and not to teach.

There is more information at <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>

Thank you

Susan

Susan Poser

Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
2832 University Hall

601 S. Morgan Street

Mail Code 105

Chicago, IL 60607-7128

(312) 413-3450 / sposer@uic.edu

@SusanPoserUIC



--

Alfred W. Tatum

Dean and Professor

College of Education

The University of Illinois at Chicago

1040 W. Harrison

College of Education, MC 147

Chicago, IL 60607

atatum1@uic.edu

From: [To replace the OAA Exchange distribution list](#)
To: UICDEANS@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: Re: GEO Strike
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:10:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

While I have not sent to following messages, I crafted the language below for our students, faculty, and chairs. I will revise based on guidance from the campus or use if we have to craft a unique message.

AWT

Dear College of Education Students,

I am writing to inform you that the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) that includes teaching assistants (TAs) and graduate assistants (GAs) has exercised its right to a work stoppage under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA). Majority of the classes taught by College of Education instructors will not be impacted by the strike. However, some classes may be canceled as a result of the strike. I have asked all instructors to communicate to you if your class will or will not be canceled. Additionally, I recommend that you reach out to your instructors via email to determine the status of your classes.

The College of Education will honor the rights of all faculty, staff, and students and ensure there are shared understandings and sufficient guidance during the strike. It may be useful for you to become familiar with the rules governing this work stoppage, some of which can be found at <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>. Please pay particular attention to student related FAQs and your right to attend classes as described below:

Students have a right to attend classes. Students, employees and members of the public have a right to enter academic and administrative buildings and to do so without being intimidated, coerced or threatened. Picketing on public property is usually lawful so long as the picketing is peaceful, does not create a disturbance and does not block entrances and exits. Picketers must not block a door, passageway, driveway, crosswalk or other entrance or exit. Union officials or picketers have a right to talk to people going into or out of campus buildings. Attempts to intimidate, threaten or coerce are not permitted, either by verbal remarks or physical action.

In the meantime, the College of Education will work on your behalf to minimize the strike's impact on you. We are available to respond to questions or concerns during the ongoing negotiations. You can reach the following offices if you have questions:

Office of Student Services - 312-413-2405
Curriculum & Instruction and Educational Policy Studies – 312-996-4509 or 312-996-4508
Educational Psychology and Special Education -312 996-5650 or 312 996-5580
Dean's Office – 312-996-5641

Alfred W. Tatum
Dean, College of Education

Dear College of Education Faculty and Staff,

The Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) that includes teaching assistants (TAs) and graduate assistants (GAs) has exercised its right to a work stoppage under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (IELRA). While the College of Education recognizes the GEO's right to strike, we have a responsibility to honor the rights of all faculty, staff, and students and ensure there are shared understandings and sufficient guidance during the strike. Therefore, I recommend that you gather information that has been provided via multiple communications regarding the status of the negotiations between the GEO, the union representing teaching assistants and graduate assistants at UIC. It may be useful to become familiar with the rules governing this work stoppage, some of which can be found at <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>.

I have recommended that all students reach out to their instructors via email to determine if their classes will or will not be canceled during the work stoppage. For faculty, it would be extremely helpful if you send an email informing students about the status of your classes. Distinguishing between teaching assistants and graduate assistants can be confusing for our students.

I am available to respond to questions or concerns during the ongoing negotiations. In the meantime, I will work closely with each of you to minimize the impact on students who are taking courses this semester. I will provide more details as they become available.

Alfred W. Tatum

Suggested Language for Department Chairs to TAs:

Dear _____,

The Department recognizes your right to strike. However, it is important that we notify students if a class is canceled. Will you please let me know if you have informed students about the status of your class? I will ensure students are notified if you decide to cancel class. I look forward to hearing from you.

I am available to respond to all student inquiries. Or, they can contact Dr. Gena Flynn, Associate Dean of Student Affairs at gflynn@uic.edu or (312) 413-2405.

Signed,

Department Chair

On Mon, Mar 18, 2019 at 11:57 PM Nelson, Peter C <nelson@uic.edu> wrote:

Susan,

Do we have any updates on the strike situation?

Also, is a message being sent to all faculty and staff regarding strike, or will each dean send out their own (unique) message? My understanding from Deans' Council last week is that there will be centralized communications coming from you, Michael G. and Janet. Or should we just forward your message to all faculty and staff?

[REDACTED]

Thanks,
Pete

Pete Nelson
UIC College of Engineering

From: To replace the OAA Exchange distribution list <uicdeans@listserv.uic.edu> on behalf of Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 12:49 PM
To: uicdeans@listserv.uic.edu
Subject: GEO Strike

Dear Deans,

We are anticipating there will be a GEO strike tomorrow, though bargaining continues throughout today. I ask you to look carefully at this website <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>, which has a lot of information and should answer most of your questions. A few key points found on this website:

Graduate students can choose not to strike and to teach their classes so classes should not be cancelled en masse. However, the assumption is that everyone is striking, so the grad students who want to teach must let someone know – the dept head or HR person. We will gather that information centrally from the departments later.

Students who strike and do not teach will not be paid for those days. This is why it is so important that departments track who is and who is not on strike. Your college needs to find a way to track this.

Faculty may not strike in sympathy and are expected to teach their classes. Faculty are responsible for figuring out how to cover the material not covered when their TA chooses to strike and not to

teach.

There is more information at <https://geobargaining.uic.edu>

Thank you

Susan

Susan Poser

Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
2832 University Hall
601 S. Morgan Street

Mail Code 105
Chicago, IL 60607-7128
(312) 413-3450 / sposer@uic.edu

@SusanPoserUIC



--

Alfred W. Tatum
Dean and Professor

College of Education
The University of Illinois at Chicago

1040 W. Harrison
College of Education, MC 147
Chicago, IL 60607
atatum1@uic.edu

From: [UIC Chancellor](#)
To: [Joshua Radinsky](#); [Poser, Susan](#); [Colley, Karen J](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Learning Sciences faculty concerns about GEO situation
Date: Friday, March 29, 2019 12:05:48 PM

Thank you for your feedback.

Michael

Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St
2833 University Hall, MC 102
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 413-3350

On 3/28/19, 9:25 PM, "Joshua Radinsky" [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Provost Poser, and Dean Colley,

The Learning Sciences PhD program and research institute are gravely concerned by the delay in securing a contract with the Graduate Employees Organization, and the effect the strike is having on our students and our research. We feel strongly that it is in the best interests of all parties – the university, our program, and particularly our students and research assistants – for the administration to come to agreement on a contract that is generous in its consideration of the needs of graduate student employees. We join our voices to the many other departments that have communicated similar concerns to you in recent days.

The Learning Sciences faculty and staff work hard every year to recruit excellent PhD students to our unique program, and we have had great success over the last decade in establishing UIC as one of the best places in the country to obtain a PhD in this growing field. Yet every year we struggle with the fact that other institutions offer more generous benefits to their graduate employees. The best strategic move UIC could make at this moment in time would be to make a highly visible statement that we value graduate students' work and contributions, that we are serious about bringing in students from under-represented, working-class, and immigrant families and supporting them in securing doctoral degrees.

Unfortunately the present labor dispute is communicating exactly the opposite to our students, to our potential students, and to the larger public. This is all in direct conflict with our land grant mission and our commitment to equity, and undermines our relationships with the communities we serve. The protracted contract dispute highlights the economic struggles and sacrifices that are the reality for our graduate students, and may be contributing to a perception that UIC is indifferent to these realities.

Please take this opportunity to make this contract a strong statement of investment and commitment in the value of the outstanding students we have brought to UIC, and a pledge to support the work they do here and their contributions to the larger communities they will serve after graduation. Rather than dig in for a protracted fight that undermines our university and our programs, we urge you to settle a generous contract now so that we can move forward.

Sincerely,

· Dr. James Pellegrino, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Education, Co-Director Learning Sciences Research Institute

· Dr. Susan Goldman, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Education, Co-Director Learning Sciences Research Institute

· Dr. Steven E. Tozer, Professor of Educational Policy Studies, LSRI founding faculty member

· Dr. Donald Wink, Professor of Chemistry and the Learning Sciences, LSRI founding faculty member

· Dr. Thomas Moher, Emeritus Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Learning Sciences, , LSRI founding faculty member

· Dr. Danny B. Martin, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction and Mathematics, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences

· Dr. Mara V. Martinez, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences

· Dr. Aria Razfar, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction, Faculty Affiliate of Learning Sciences

· Dr. Josh Radinsky, Associate Professor of the Learning Sciences and Curriculum & Instruction

From: [Boyer, Christopher R.](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: Re: Letter from Faculty of the Department of History
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2019 4:42:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Dear Susan,

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to our letter; it means a lot. I know that these are challenging times, and I believe in your leadership. I am and will remain committed to collaboration and to doing whatever I can to help us move forward in a responsible way.

Best wishes,
Chris

Chris Boyer
Professor and Chair of History
Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies
University of Illinois at Chicago
Pronouns: he, him, his

From: "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 4:11 PM
To: Christopher Boyer <crboyer@uic.edu>, "Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios" <amiridis@uic.edu>, "Colley, Karen J" <karenc@uic.edu>
Cc: John Abbott <jabbot1@uic.edu>, Cynthia Blair <cmblair@uic.edu>, Jennie Brier <jbrier@uic.edu>, Jonathan Daly <daly@uic.edu>, "Davis, Cory A" <cdavis26@uic.edu>, Malgorzata Fidelis <gosia01@uic.edu>, "Goodman, Adam S I" <asig@uic.edu>, Kirk Hoppe <kahoppe1@uic.edu>, Laura Hostetler <hostetle@uic.edu>, Lynn Hudson <hudsonlm@uic.edu>, "Jin, Michael" <mrjin@uic.edu>, Robert Johnston <johnsto1@uic.edu>, Lynn Hudson <hudsonlm@uic.edu>, Richard Levy <rslevy@uic.edu>, Rama Mantena <rmantena@uic.edu>, Ellen McClure <ellenmc@uic.edu>, "Mogilner, Marina" <mmogilne@uic.edu>, "Negrin, Hayley" <hnegrin@uic.edu>, Junaid Quadri <jquadri@uic.edu>, Barbara Ransby [REDACTED], Kevin Schultz <schultzk@uic.edu>, Elizabeth Todd Breland <etoddbre@uic.edu>
Subject: Re: Letter from Faculty of the Department of History

Dear Dr. Boyer and Department of History faculty members,

Thank you for your letter concerning the GEO strike.

I understand and concur with your views of the good work of our graduate students, and that they are deserving of all of the support we can give them. I feel that way about you, our faculty, as well. You are the lifeblood of UIC. As students and administrators come and go, you

remain. You do the most important work of the university – the research, the teaching, the service, the community engagement, the mentoring, etc. This isn't to say no one else does any of these things, but you do them all. You are UIC. I have been saying that for the past 3 years and I will continue to say it.

It is the administration's responsibility to figure out how to make this place work – to support the faculty, staff, and students in every way we can, and to address myriad other needs, from utilities to deferred maintenance to safety, and so forth. All of this circles back to supporting the mission of the University, the most important aspects of which are the education of our students, research, and community engagement.

UIC is a place that is trying to do so much – to fulfill our mission while serving and supporting a very financially challenged student body in a context of overall declining state funding. We are doing all of this in facilities that in some cases are over 50 years old and not worthy of the people who work and study in them, or the work that goes on in them. UIC is, I believe, unique in this multifaceted, public, mission, and its success thus far in fulfilling it.

I ask you not to believe everything you read on social media or hear from the unions. The University has chosen not to respond publicly to misleading narratives and partial truths. We are trying to address the demands of the GEO at the bargaining table. Our current efforts include offering wage increases from previous contracts in every area proposed.

No doubt, there are many ways to meet the challenges before us. We are endeavoring to do this in a thoughtful and balanced way, given many very real constraints that are not in our control. We may not be doing this in the best possible way or in a way that will satisfy everyone, I would never claim we were, but the simplistic alternative being put forth, i.e., to accede to all demands being made, carries serious financial risk to the institution and a high cost that I fear few are particularly interested in fully understanding, but that would nonetheless have to be paid.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Poser
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
2832 University Hall
601 S. Morgan Street
Mail Code 105

Chicago, IL 60607-7128

(312) 413-3450

Follow me on Twitter @SusanPoserUIC



From: "Boyer, Christopher R." <crboyer@uic.edu>

Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 9:41 AM

To: "Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios" <amiridis@uic.edu>, "Poser, Susan" <sposer@uic.edu>, "Colley, Karen J" <karenc@uic.edu>

Subject: Letter from Faculty of the Department of History

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Provost Poser, and Dean Colley,

I have been by my Department to share this letter with you.

We, the undersigned faculty in the Department of History, write to express our belief that a generous and favorable contract for graduate student employees is in the best interests of our Department's research and teaching mission, and that of the University. We urge the administration to come to such an agreement with the Graduate Employees Organization as soon as possible, in order to mend the rift between the University and graduate employees, and because doing so will help to raise UIC's scholarly profile.

The Department recruits and educates excellent graduate students from within the United States and globally. In the past few years, however, doctoral programs at peer public institutions have offered increasingly attractive funding packages in a bid to attract the most talented graduate students. As our peers have outpaced us, we have found it increasingly difficult to compete with institutions that promise students five or six years of guaranteed funding at levels substantially higher than ours.

Such issues are intimately related to UIC's core mission, as powerfully articulated by Chancellor Amiridis since his arrival. Economic hardship presents increasing obstacles to working-class and immigrant students, many of them students of color. And the university's goal of globalizing education requires a distinctive commitment to easing the burdens of our international graduate employees.

We also view a speedy resolution to the GEO strike as serving the interests of our undergraduate students. Our undergraduate courses are designed around the concept of instructor/teaching assistant cooperation. Teaching assistants do not simply lead discussion sections and help to grade assignments, they are irreplaceable co-teachers whose presence and talents are necessary for the success of our courses. We cannot serve the needs of undergraduate students without graduate

employees.

Rather than treating the current labor impasse as a matter of wages, we believe that it represents an ideal moment to invest in the future of the University's graduate programs. We urge the administration to help repair the social fabric of our university so that together we can collectively move forward.

Sincerely,

John Abbott, Senior Lecturer

Cynthia Blair, Associate Professor

Christopher Boyer, Professor

Jennie Brier, Professor

Jonathan Daly, Professor

Cory Davis, Lecturer

Gosia Fidelis, Associate Professor

Adam Goodman, Assistant Professor

Kirk Hoppe, Associate Professor

Laura Hostetler, Professor

Lynn Hudson, Associate Professor

Michael Jin, Assistant Professor

Robert Johnston, Professor

Lynn Hudson, Associate Professor

Richard Levy, Professor

Rama Mantena, Associate Professor

Ellen McClure, Associate Professor

Marina Mogilner, Associate Professor

Hayley Negrin, Assistant Professor

Junaid Quadri, Assistant Professor

Barbara Ransby, Distinguished Professor

Kevin Schultz, Professor

Elizabeth Todd-Breland, Assistant Professor

From: [Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios](#)
To: [Quinn, Therese Maura](#); [Poser, Susan](#); [Michaels, Walter Benn](#)
Subject: RE: Letter of Support for Graduate Employees Organization from SAAH Faculty
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:14:07 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you, Therese!

Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St
2833 University Hall, MC 102
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 413-3350



From: Therese Quinn <thereseq@uic.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:44 AM
To: Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios <amiridis@uic.edu>; Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu>; Michaels, Walter Benn <wbm@uic.edu>
Subject: Letter of Support for Graduate Employees Organization from SAAH Faculty

Dear Chancellor Amiridis, Dean Poster, and Interim Dean Michaels:

Please find attached a letter of support for UIC's Graduate Employees Organization from School of Art & Art History faculty.

Sincerely, Therese Quinn

--

Therese Quinn (My gender pronouns: she/her/hers - [\(What's this?\)](#))
Director, Museum and Exhibition Studies
University of Illinois at Chicago
929 West Harrison Street, MC 201
Chicago IL 60607-7039
(312) 413-2463

Museum and Exhibition Studies: www.flickr.com/photos/muse-uic/
http://artandarthistory.uic.edu/uic_masters_muse + issuu.com/museuic

Fwd: Museums Journal @fwdmuseums + <http://fwdmuseumsjournal.weebly.com/>
Fwd: Museums Journal 1 - Inaugurations 2016: <https://tinyurl.com/y7dy7ooj>
Fwd: Museums Journal 2 - Small 2017: <https://tinyurl.com/y84f99vj>
Call for Submissions - Fwd Museums 2019: Death to Museums: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8xpzf9>

This is a calm inbox: Email is checked several times each day, but generally not before 9:00 AM or after 5:00 PM or on the weekend.

From: Robinson, Keino
To: [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: Strike Settled
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 3:37:00 PM

Susan, I conveyed your message. I want to personally thank you for your input, participation, support and encouragement.

Keino R. Robinson - JD, MPP
University of Illinois - Chicago
Assoc. Dir. of Labor and Employee Relations
1747 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Chicago, IL 60608
Tel: 312-996-1232

On Apr 5, 2019, at 12:10 PM, Poser, Susan <sposer@uic.edu> wrote:




Please let them know that the Provost is in faculty bargaining. That might save me another tweet storm. Thank you, and thanks for all you are doing!

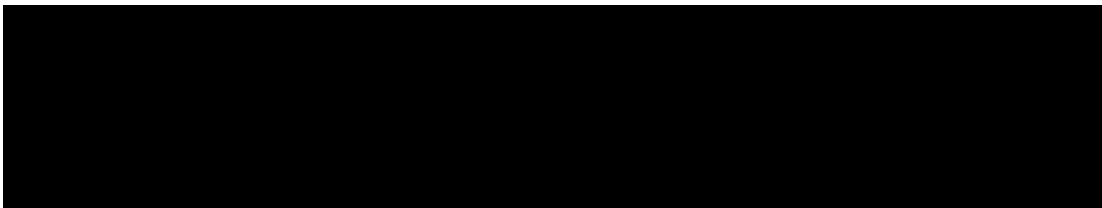
Susan

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: El-Amin, Aisha <aelami2@uic.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Poser, Susan; Ginsburg, Michael H
Subject: FW: [uicgeo] Rally at Noon, Bargaining Strike Settlement at 1:00

Aisha


On 4/5/19, 11:48 AM, "geo-bargainunit on behalf of Dawn Tefft" < >
 on behalf of  > wrote:



"Like" the UIC Graduate Employees Organization on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/uicgeo>
Also, follow us on Twitter @uicgeo.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.uic-geo.net/>

Email us at 

The Graduate Employees Organization, AFT local 6297, AFL-CIO, is the labor union democratically run by and for its members, the more than 1400 Teaching and Graduate Assistants at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

From: [Sheets, Zoie Clarise](#)
To: [Poser, Susan](#)
Cc: [Koneczny, Nell Anna](#)
Subject: Subcommittee on Disabled Student Experiences Statement of Support
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 1:43:32 PM

Hi Provost Poser,

Below please find the Subcommittee on Disabled Student Experiences (under the broader Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Person's with Disabilities) statement of solidarity for the current strike.

The Subcommittee on Disabled Student Experiences (SDSE)—under the broader Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities (CCSPD)—is a student-led group of undergraduate and graduate students who are people with disabilities and our allies. **We are in solidarity with the graduate workers striking with the Graduate Employees Organization.**

Above all, we are a group that asserts that higher education must be accessible to ALL people, and our actions on campus focus on this deep-rooted value. Higher education has historically been inaccessible to disabled individuals for many reasons.

1.
Academic spaces are often physically inaccessible.
2.
Even more frequently, academic spaces are emotionally, mentally, intellectually, and linguistically inaccessible.
3.
Academia perpetuates expectations for students that are unhealthy, structured for specific bodies and minds, and fundamentally embedded in ableism.
#AcademicAbleism
4.
The cost of higher education has become increasingly prohibitive, which particularly limits access to disabled people because members of the disability community—particularly those experiencing multiple, interlocking forms of oppression—experience higher rates of poverty than their non-disabled counterparts.

These, among other factors not listed, foster an inaccessible academic culture that does not easily align with the values of disability culture.

Over the past several years, SDSE has pushed for a cultural shift on campus, leading to the creation of a Disability Cultural Center (DCC) and the development of the "Creating Accessible Classrooms" training, which is available to all instructors at UIC—faculty, staff, teaching assistants, administrators. Our actions and projects have emphasized that our

university is in desperate need of this cultural shift that embraces and values ALL students, including those working for the university. UIC can demonstrate its dedication to this cultural shift by offering fair contracts to graduate workers, that include a living wage, fee waivers, and transparency in the hiring process. It is time UIC aligns its actions with its written values: to be a public university that welcomes diversity and provides opportunities for ALL of our community members, which supports deeper learning as a result of a diverse student body.

As tuition and fees continue to increase across the United States, it is vital for UIC to provide a generous contract to graduate workers as one way to challenge inaccessibility and to instead actively promote access to the equalizing strength of higher education. **We recognize that the graduate workers' contract is a matter of justice—disability justice and beyond. We urge UIC administrators and leadership to take the necessary steps to end the strike and ensure that UIC graduate workers, both with and without disabilities, can afford to study, work, live, play, and learn without facing a financial and cultural environment that sacrifices their well-being.** For any questions concerning this statement, please contact SDSE co-chair, Zoie Sheets, at zsheets2@uic.edu.

Best,
Zoie Sheets and Nell Koneczny, SDSE Co-Chairs

Zoie Sheets, MPH (c) (*she/her/hers*)

University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health | Division of Health Policy and Administration

Disabilities Research Associate | UIC Department of Medical Education

GPPA Graduate Assistant, UIC Honors College | honors.uic.edu | gppa.uic.edu

Leadership Development Fellow | The Inclusive Collective | letsgetinclusiveuic.org

Student Chair | Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

From: Public and Government Affairs
To: [Poser, Susan](#)
Subject: UIC Daily Clips 3-19-19
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 4:28:50 PM



MEDIA COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

March 19, 2019

UIC Featured

Experts Quoted

Alumni / Students

Broadcast

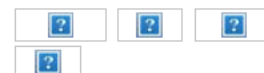
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[Contact Us](#)



UIC FEATURED

Chicago's new mayor will be a black woman. Can she bridge the city's divides?

Daily Chronicle - March 19, 2019

stock was abandoned, according to a 2017 study by the *University of Illinois at Chicago's* Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.



Prescription Drugs That Can Cause Depression

Newsmax - March 19, 2019

and anxiety can cause depression. A study conducted by the *University of Illinois at Chicago* and published in the Journal of the American



Materials Could Delay Frost up to 300 Times Longer Than Existing Anti-Icing Coatings - Science and Technology Research News

Science and Technology Research News - March 19, 2019

frequent reapplication," said Rukmava Chatterjee, a doctoral *student* in the *UIC College* of Engineering and the first author of the paper.



Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us'

Chicago Tribune - March 19, 2019

Graduate student employees at *University of Illinois at Chicago* went on strike Tuesday after more than a year of contract negotiations



UIC teaching assistants to go on strike

Chicago Sun-Times - March 19, 2019

More than 1,500 teaching assistants and graduate assistants at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* planned to go on strike Tuesday. The



UIC graduate workers begin strike Tuesday

WGN -TV - March 19, 2019

to watch this video CHICAGO -- Graduate workers at the *University of Illinois Chicago* plan to walk out on strike Tuesday. The workers have



UIC Graduate Teachers To Strike Tuesday Morning

CBS Chicago - March 19, 2019

university fees and appointment policies. The *UIC* Graduate Employees Organization represents more than 1,500 teaching and graduate *students*.



UIC Grad Workers Go On Indefinite Strike

WCIU, The U - March 19, 2019

UIC graduate workers and assistants reach no deal with the *university* administration on a new labor contract. They've been trying to



UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial

Telemundo Chicago - March 19, 2019

UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial



Code Blue Celebrates 30 Years of Safety And Security

MassTransitmag.com - March 19, 2019

communication solutions. Code Blue was founded when the *University of Illinois* at *Chicago* selected our new signature design from several



Niles hosts Illinois author today about drug addiction

Vindy.com - March 19, 2019

who is also professor of clinical pediatrics at the *University of Illinois* College of Medicine in *Chicago* and author of the book *The Mystery*



'Hip-Hop Poet' Kevin Coval Discusses Work April 9 at COD

Illinois Patch.com - March 19, 2019

festival in Chicago, Coval teaches hip-hop aesthetics at The *University of Illinois-Chicago*. He is the author and editor more than a dozen



New Edgewater Cafe's Owners Plan to Tackle Chicago Youth Unemployment

Eater Chicago - March 18, 2019

at a rate of 70 percent, according to research from the *University of Illinois* at *Chicago*, and a whopping \$9.5 billion in Illinois tax



EXPERTS QUOTED

Long-Term Use of Hormone Therapy Linked to Increased Alzheimer's Risk - Today's Geriatric Medicine

Today's Geriatric Medicine - March 19, 2019

Hospital in Boston, and Pauline Maki, PhD, of the *University of Illinois* at *Chicago*, query whether the findings should change the view that



Ald. Roderick Sawyer Vows To Make His Case To Voters After Being Forced Into Runoff By Challenger In 6th Ward

Block Club Chicago - March 19, 2019

to an analysis of divided City Council votes from the *University of Illinois Chicago* Political Science professor and former 44th Ward Ald.



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

ER Doctor Killed In Mercy Hospital Shooting Honored With Scholarship Fund

Vibe - March 19, 2019

a first-year medical student in the Urban Health Program at the *University of Illinois*, The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports. O'Neal's former



Scholarship named for physician killed in Chicago hospital shooting

Becker's Hospital Review - March 18, 2019

Several *alumni* of the *UIC College* of Medicine in *Chicago* have raised funds to create a scholarship fund to honor Tamara O'Neal, MD, the



UIC Local Spotlight: An Interview with M2 Cafe

Spoon University - March 19, 2019

get that stuff anywhere else when they work nearby. We especially get a lot of *UIC students*, to whom we do give a 10% discount. I think they



BROADCAST

FOX 32 News at Nine

WFLD-CHI (FOX) - March 19, 2019

>>>...At UIC for victims of the New Zealand mosque attacks.>>>



WGN-AM (Radio) at March 19th 2019 12:30 AM

WGN-AM (Radio) - March 19, 2019

Striking workers will be forming picket lines later this morning outside several buildings at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus...>>>



NEWS RELEASES

UIC symposium looks at the arts, politics of architecture

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019



UIC student honored with national civic fellowship

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019



Meltwater - 225 Bush St Suite 1000, San Francisco, California 94104 USA

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From: [Villagran, Emmelly Marie](#)
To: [Amiridis, Michael Dimitrios](#); [Poser, Susan](#); [Michaels, Walter Benn](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Undergraduate Support for the GEO Strike
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 10:07:13 AM

Hello,

The undergraduates from the School of Art and Art History wish to express our support to the graduate students on the GEO strike. Attached is a letter drafted, and signed by students in the department. We urge the administration to come to a quick and fair agreement with the Graduate Employees Organization. Our education depends on it.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XZp-0Lw5wiA_ti6BHEOmgITaLBDm47sBI1R-AF1nVRc/edit?usp=sharing

Thank you,
Emmelly Villagran
April 3rd, 2019

From: Latino Cultural Center- Faculty/Staff
To: FACULTY-STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: Updates from the LCC (4/1/19)
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 11:05:19 AM



Upcoming LCC Public Programs 4.1.19

**27th annual
UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival**

Huahua – Wed. April 3, 2019
• Ecuador / 2018 / 70 min / Documentary



- Director: José Espinosa Anguaya / Spanish w/ English subtitles

A couple face a difficult choice when they find out that they are going to be parents: to raise their newborn in Ecuador's capital Quito or in their native village. José returns to the northern Ecuadorian town of Otavalo to seek counsel among his family and town residents.

**The Gazelle's Dance / El baile de la gacela –
Thurs. April 4, 2019**

- Costa Rica / Mexico / 2018 / 90 min / Comedy
- Director: Iván Porras Meléndez / Spanish w/ English subtitles

As a soccer star back in the day, Eugenio used to be known as "The Gazelle" for his speed and dexterity in the field. He retired young, unable to score a trophy. Now at 72 and living in a retirement home, Eugenio is determined to win a dance contest with the help of his partner Carmen and his gay instructor Daniel.

The UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival is presented in collaboration with the International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago as they celebrate their 35th Chicago Latino Film Festival. Co-sponsors: UIC Honors College, Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) Program, and student organizations Delta Psi Alpha, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS).

Time: Screening twice a day: 12pm & 5pm

Where: LCC - Lecture Center B2

FREE admission and popcorn



**Zona Abierta
Blackness & Mexicanidad**

Afro-descendancy and Mis / representations in Mexican Popular Culture

Presented in partnership with Latin American and Latino Studies Program and the National Museum of Mexican Art

What are popular representations of Blackness in Mexican Popular Culture? Historically, Afro-Mexicans have been an invisibilized population in Mexico and around the globe but recent awareness has sparked interests in exploring Blackness and Mexicanidad, in particular, Black representations in Mexican popular culture. Some of these representations include the infamous *El Negrito* in *La Lotería Mexicana*, as well as other problematic images. Join **Crystal Galván**, LALS graduate student to reflect on Black history in Mexico and the hidden meanings behind *El Negrito*. Learn and ask: Why does this matter?

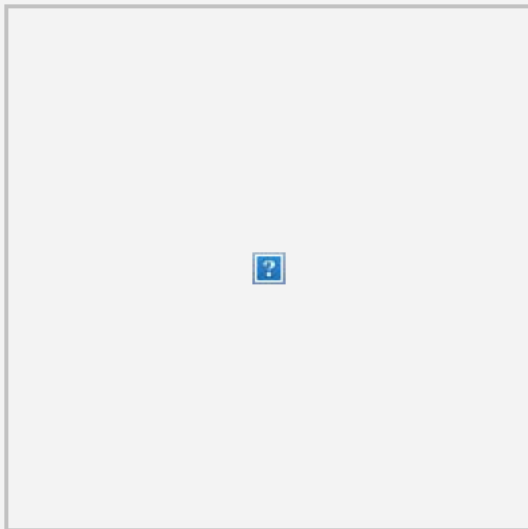
When: Thurs. April 4, 2019

Time: 6pm to 7pm

Where: National Museum of Mexican Art
1852 W. 19th St. Chicago IL

FREE admission

Crystal Galván is from Omak, WA a small agricultural community in North Central Washington. She graduated from Washington State University (WSU) with a dual degree; B.A. in Comparative Ethnic Studies and a B.A. in Sociology. Some of her research interests include the African Diaspora in México, Race and Racism in Latin America, Latinx and Latin American Popular Culture, and Intersectionality.



Heritage Garden Spring Seed Swap!

- What role do seeds play in advancing food sovereignty?
- How does community gardening cultivate cultural diversity?
- How does gardening heal a community?

Join the UIC Heritage Garden for our 5th annual Spring Seed Swap! We invite gardeners, organizations, and community members interested in learning more about gardening, environmental sustainability, and social justice. Anyone can come swap seeds and share knowledge, stories, and resources with others, and make new friends from around the city.

Admission is **FREE**: you do not have to bring seeds to attend. Refreshments will be served.

When: Sun. April 7, 2019

Time: 1pm to 3pm

Where: Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
Resident's Dining Hall, 800 S. Halsted St. Chicago, 60607

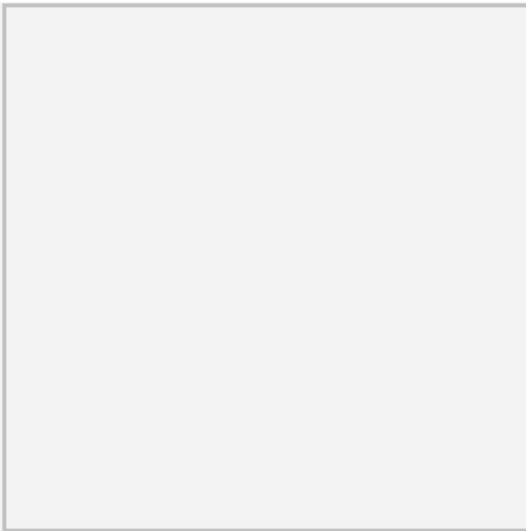
Donations are welcomed. If you would like to bring seeds from your garden or organization and need a table to set up your materials (seeds, flyers, etc.) please RSVP to heritagegarden.uic@gmail.com by **Monday, March 25, 2019**. If you need any accommodations, please email us as well.

[Información en español. aquí!](#)

RMI Reimagining Asian American Masculinity: A Mixed Trans Perspective

- What is masculinity?
- Who can be masculine?
- How do we redefine masculinity when claiming it has been denied to us?
- What does it mean to live authentically?

[Willy Wilkinson, MPH](#) is an award-winning writer, public health consultant, cultural competency trainer, public speaker, and spoke word performer who has been



advocating for marginalized populations since the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

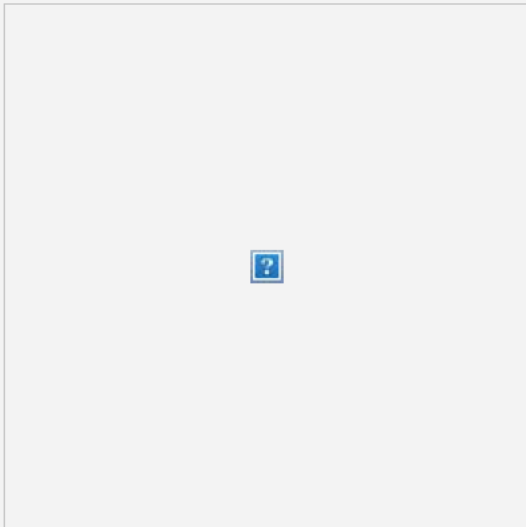
When: Tues. April 9, 2019

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Where: UIC Daley Library, 1st floor, room 1-470

FREE and Open to the Public

Presented by the UIC AANNAPISI Initiative in partnership with the Reimagining Masculinities Initiative (RMI), a collaborative project of the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change. Co-sponsored by Global Asian Studies Program, Gender and Sexuality Center, and Invisible to Invincible (i2i): Chicago API Pride. For info or disability services contact Karen Su at karensu@uic.edu; UIC Library is wheelchair accessible.



Noche de Poetas **Stories: Building Identity through History**

Join Mexican Students de Aztlán (MeSA), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), and Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) for the **last Noche de Poetas** (Poetry Night) of the Spring semester.

OPEN MIC! Don't miss out on the amazing talented poets as they share their own poetic words on this month's theme: Scholarship

Leading the night will be our featured poet: **Monica Gonzalez**

- How can we use literature/academia to reclaim our own history/identity?
- How can we navigate academic spaces to learn about our history?

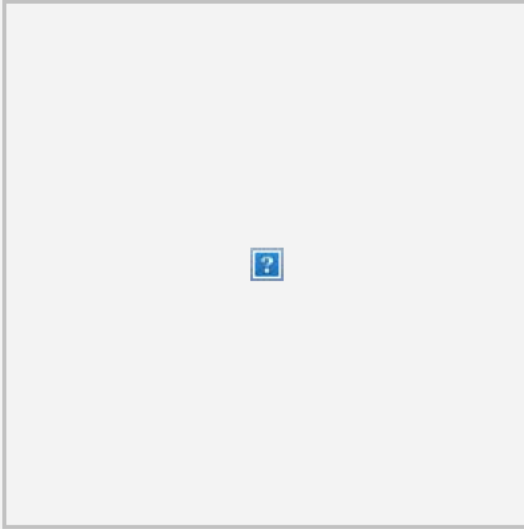
When: Thurs. April 11, 2019

Time: 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Where: LCC - Lecture Center B2

FREE refreshments and admission

Monica Gonzalez is an 18 year old aspiring poet. She takes inspiration from her grandmother, who encouraged her to always be herself and find freedom in that. Monica uses poetry to express herself and her identity, and uses her work to expose the myth of reality. Though she struggles with anxiety, she finds strength in sharing her experiences with others, and vows to write her heart out regardless of what trials and tribulations she may face.



Zona Abierta **Drawing on Anger**

For over a decade artist **Eric J. Garcia** has inked visuals with the sharpest of political critiques made through a Chicano lens. Known for blending history and culture with contemporary politics, Garcia creates art that reaches beyond aesthetics. Join us as we celebrate *Drawing on Anger: Portraits of U.S. Hypocrisy*, a collection of Garcia's most unabashed political cartoons about U.S. history and politics from 2004 to the present.

Garcia reconstructs pivotal moments in history—such as U.S. complicity in the disappearance of the forty-three Ayotzinapa Mexican students, genocide and torture in Iraq, and femicide along the U.S. Mexico border. His work reflects on the larger themes of anti-immigration laws, global imperialism, veterans affairs, and the conquest of the Americas.

When: Wed. April 24, 2019

Time: 3pm to 4:30pm

Where: LCC - Lecture Center B2

FREE refreshments and admission

Eric J. Garcia is known for mixing history and culture with contemporary themes. He always tries to create art that is much more than just aesthetics. Garcia has exhibited nationally, including institutions like the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. He received his BFA with a minor in Chicano studies from the University of New Mexico, and his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

SAVE THE DATES!

- Earth Week Celebration at LCC! April 16-18, 2019, times will vary
- Finals Week at the LCC - [Stay Tune!](#)

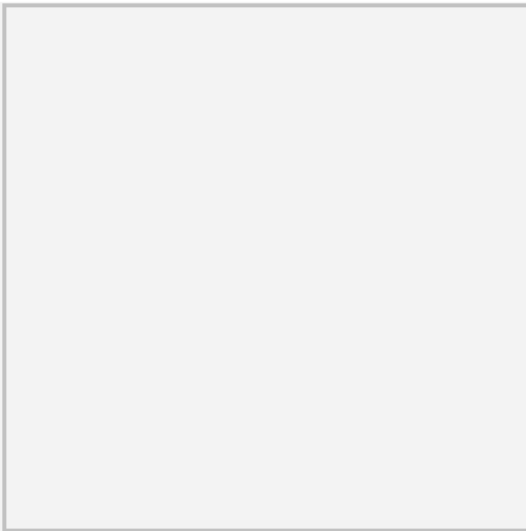
Opportunities for UIC Faculty / Staff

LCC Mural Tours & Dialogues for UIC classes & groups

Bring your class / group to the UIC Latino Cultural Center this spring semester!

LCC Mural Tour

Explore El Despertar de las Américas (The Awakening of the Americas) mural, and the rich



cultural stories addressed through the art.

Civic Dialogues

Explore the LCC mural or artifacts to discuss personal stories and learn from other perspectives from pressing social and environmental issues. There are two dialogues options: Im/migration OR Environmental and Climate Justice.

When: Jan. 22 – April 26, 2019

Time: 50 - 90 min. each, depending on class needs / size

Where: LCC - Lecture Center B2

Limited Availability. To make your reservation, call

(312)996-2374 or submit form

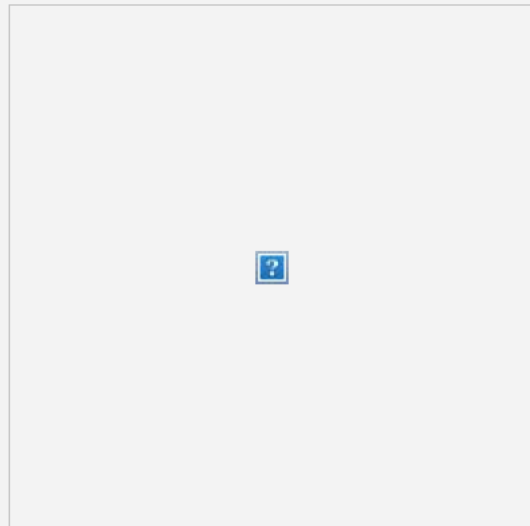
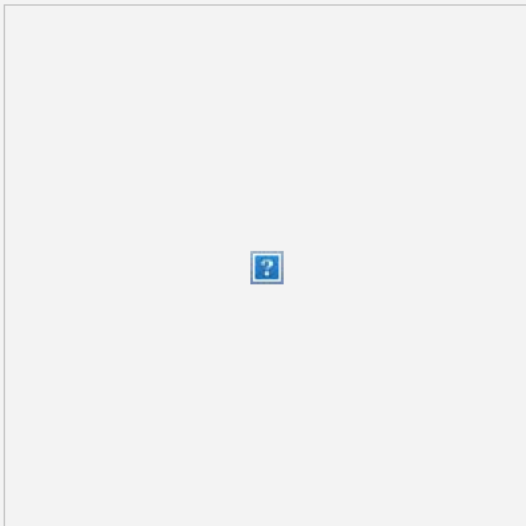
here: <http://latinocultural.uic.edu/programs/dialogues-tours/>

UIC & Community Events

Visit the [Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity](#) to learn more about [Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change](#) upcoming public programs

The World and Us

Social Justice International Women's Speaker Series



- UIC African-American Cultural Center - Yoga Sessions Twice a Month - More info [HERE](#)

- UIC Graduate Employees Organization and Chicago Symphony Orchestra – [Solidarity Performance](#) – April 1, 2019, starting

at 12pm

- UIC Arab American Cultural Center - Save the Date: Zaffah, Knafah, & Graduation Haflah Celebration! [Student Registration](#) – April 18, 2019, starting at 6pm
- The Anheimo Project – [10th Annual Dream Gala](#) – April 26, 2019, starting at 6pm
- UIC Gender and Sexuality Center – Save the Date: Lavender Graduation 2019! [Student Registration](#) / [Guest Registration](#) – May 3, 2019, starting at 5pm
- UIC Gallery 400 – [Voices: Maria Gaspar, "Speeches Acts"](#) – April 23, 2019, starting at 6pm
- [30th annual Chicago Humanities Festival](#) – April 25 - May 4, 2019, times vary
- UIC Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy invite you to [participate in a study on differences in access to wealth](#) among middle-class families in Cook County. Through interviews, researchers are examining the challenges and opportunities to wealth attainment and how wealth influences families' wellbeing. More information, [HERE](#).



Student Support & Opportunities

- [U and I Care](#) provides a student-centered learning environment that offers support, advocacy, & resources that contribute to student success.
- [UIC support for undocumented students](#)
- [UIC Gender-Affirmative Clinic for campus community](#)
- UIC Scholarship and Awards Program (SnAP) is UIC's internal scholarship information system. If you are a UIC student, [you can log in using netID](#).
- [UIC Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Non-Departmental Funding

- [Student Legal Services](#) (Immigration) staff attorneys, now available!
- [UIC Pop-Up Pantry](#) – This is a free resource for all registered UIC students.
- [UIC Writing Center](#) – Writing Support for Undergraduates and Graduate students.
- Mentoring con L@s GANAS - [Applications are now OPEN](#) for 2019-2020 Academic Year.
- ACE is recruiting Peer Success Coaches – [Applications are now OPEN](#) for for 2019-2020 Academic Year.
- Digital Responsibility – [E-Waste Scholarship](#) – **Due April 30, 2019**
- [2019-2010 UIC Swan Scholarship Application](#) – **Due April 26, 2019**
- [Thermo Fisher Scientific Antibody Scholarship Program](#) – **Application Due May 20, 2019**
- Hispanic Center of Excellence – [Latino Health Science Enrichment Program \(LaHSEP\)](#) is a 6-week summer academic enrichment program open to incoming UIC freshman from the Chicagoland and neighboring suburbs. **Due July 31, 2019**
- [CREW Chicago Scholarship](#) – Due October 31, 2019
- [The GREEN Program](#), Short-term study abroad, experiential education for our world's most pressing issues in sustainable development.



LCC Affiliated Student Organizations' Upcoming Events





Flickr



Email



From: Staff Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO strike update, April 1
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 8:12:54 PM

UIC Official Announcement



Dear faculty, staff and students:

After six bargaining sessions since the strike began on March 19, the University and the Graduate Employees Organization have made very little progress to come to an agreement, particularly on wages and fees. The University continues to bargain in good faith. We are ready to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable for both parties.

Tentative agreements have been reached between the parties to make no changes to a substantial part of the overall agreement. Remaining issues still under discussion are wages, health care, expenses, duration, office space and union

rights. The main differences are outlined below:

Wages

As of March 30, the positions of the two sides on wages are outlined below. The current minimum salary for a 50% FTE, 9-month position is \$18,065 (hourly rate of \$23).

GEO is currently proposing an increase in the minimum salary of 7.4% in the first year of the new contract, 7.2% in the second year and 8.2% in the third year.

The University has offered a 4.1% increase in the first year, 4.1% increase in the second year and 3.75% in the third year. UIC has also agreed to pay all GEO members with active appointments at the time of ratification of a new contract the retroactive portion of the new minimum.

University departments may pay graduate assistants more than the minimum salary and many do so. Currently, approximately one-half of all assistants are paid more than the minimum salary. The University's offer does not alter the ability of units to pay assistants at a higher rate than the minimum.

Expenses

Currently, GEO members pay less than 40 percent of all student fees. With our proposal, it will be even less.

GEO members currently have the following student fees completely waived: Service Fee (\$350 per semester), Health Service Fee (\$92 per semester), Academic Facilities Maintenance Assessment (\$334 per semester) and the Library/IT Assessment (\$220 per semester). The full waiver of these fees remains in effect including coverage of any increases in those fees. Coupled with the partial coverage of the Health Insurance Fee, GEO members currently have \$2,542 per academic year in student fees waived, while they receive the corresponding services paid by the rest of the student body.

GEO members currently are required to pay the General Fee (\$431 per semester) and those GEO members who are international students also pay the International Student Fee (\$130 per semester).

The General Fee is a fee charged to GEO members as students. The fee increase was recommended by the Student Fee Advisory Committee. The General Fee will increase by \$50 per semester next year to support an expansion and remodeling of the student centers.

GEO is also requesting that all tuition differentials be waived and that the University provide a form to file for an exemption for Graduate Assistants of an IRS rule that allows for a tax exemption for Teaching and Research Assistants. The University position on these items is that none of these proposed changes can be adopted. The waiver of differentials would result in a significant revenue loss for many academic departments. The IRS rule cannot be circumvented without putting the University at risk of a violation of federal law.

GEO is currently proposing that all new fees created during the contract be completely waived, that all but \$100 of the General Fee each semester be waived and that international students would only pay \$30 of the International Student Fee each semester. The University cannot waive these fees because there is no source

of funds which could be used to make up for the loss of revenue. The University has proposed to add \$100 to the minimum wage salary for the second year of the contract to cover the \$100 increase to the General Fee for that year.

Union Rights

GEO has requested that the University allow the union to speak at all campus, college and department graduate/teaching assistant orientations. Access to these orientations would be mandatory.

The University countered to allow GEO to speak at campus and college orientations and allow for them to speak at department orientations upon request and by mutual consent.

For ongoing information and updates on the status of negotiations, visit geobargaining.uic.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael Ginsburg
Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

From: Staff Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO Strike, March 19
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:56:43 AM

[Read this message online](#)

UIC Official Announcement



Dear Campus Community,

The UIC Graduate Employees Organization, the union representing 1,600 graduate employees in collective bargaining negotiations, has declared an indefinite work stoppage beginning Tuesday, March 19.

The bargaining teams are scheduled to meet again on Friday, March 22.

All members of the university community will be expected to meet for classes as usual. During a strike, the university is committed to

continuing normal operations to the fullest extent possible. Students and parents can be assured that educational objectives will be fulfilled, and grades should not be affected.

The University has participated in 22 negotiating sessions, including five utilizing the services of the federal mediator. We believe that this work stoppage is not in the best interest of the University, or our students. However, the University fully respects the rights of its employees under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act and other applicable law.

GEO members:

- have the right to picket and demonstrate;
- have the right to work, or to strike;
- who choose to strike will not be paid during the strike;
- who choose to work and not strike will continue to be paid.

A mediation session occurred yesterday, and the negotiating teams reached an agreement on appointment terms with both sides stipulating that the university will create a task force to develop guidelines for departments regarding appointments, reappointments and assignments.

Both the University and the union had hoped to make progress on the following critical issues: wages, health care fees, expenses/student fees, and union rights.

Wages

Graduate employees currently receive a minimum salary of \$18,065 for two semesters of twenty hours of work per week, plus the equivalent of \$13,502 in tuition and fee waivers (assuming full-time tuition of 12 credit hours plus for 2 semesters). When you annualize that salary from 9 months to 12 months and equate it to full time at 40 hours per week, plus the value of the tuition waivers, it is akin to a salary of \$62,375 per year.

UIC has offered an 11.5 percent increase in the minimum salary over the three-year period of the next contract (4.1 percent in year one, 3.7 percent in year two, and 3.7 percent in year three of the contract).

The GEO has asked for a more than 24 percent increase over a three-year period (7.9 percent in year one of the contract, 7.7 percent in year two, and 8.6 percent in year three) and additional tuition and fee waivers.

Health care fees

There are approximately 1,200 GEO members enrolled in Campus Care at a cost of \$570 per semester. Next year, the cost will increase to \$673 per semester. Currently, GEO members pay \$295 per semester.

UIC has agreed to cover all increases in the rate that may occur during

the contract period.

The GEO has asked to pay \$220 per semester, with UIC paying the remainder of the fees.

Student fees

Graduate and undergraduate students pay a \$431 per semester general fee that will increase to \$481 next year, following a recommendation by the student fee committee. In addition, graduate and undergraduate international students pay a \$130 per semester international fee to support all services associated with international students.

UIC is dependent on the revenue from the general and international fees and is unable to meet requests to waive those fees for GEO employees.

The GEO has asked for UIC to pay the full amount of these fees.

The University has created a website, geobargaining.uic.edu, to inform our campus community of the status of negotiations and work stoppage, to answer questions relating to a strike, and for documents showing the University's proposals and the union's responses. We encourage everyone to visit the site for the most recent updates.

Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis
Chancellor

Susan Poser
Provost

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

From: Staff Massmail Announcements
To: MASSMAIL_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [UIC_TODAY] Honoring UIC's University Scholars
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 10:00:30 AM

News-Outlet-Title-2



April 2, 2019

Top Stories

University Scholars

Anne George's PhD



Program honors faculty members for superior research and teaching

[Read more](#)

Oscar-nominated alumnus returns to campus

Bing Liu holding film camera on “Minding the Gap



Bing Liu to present filmmaking workshop, documentary screening April 4

[Read more](#)

What's cooking in UIC's Metabolic Kitchen?

What's cooking in UIC's Metabolic Kitchen?



New resource for faculty and staff whose studies involve a nutrition component

[Read more](#)

Messages and announcements

**Message from leadership
regarding GEO
negotiations**

Many of you have been expressing your support for our graduate and teaching assistants during the GEO strike. We share your concern about their important role. Furthermore, we understand the financial needs of graduate students, as well as all employees of UIC, and we are doing our best to address them through collective bargaining. At the same time, we are trying to protect UIC's ability to fulfill its mission within our financial constraints and resources.

[Read More](#)

Staying Safe on Campus

University leaders place a high priority on the safety and security of our campus community. Warmer weather often brings an increase in crime and UIC leaders are continuously reassessing and adjusting security and patrol areas in response to campus needs. Utilize campus safety tips and services — they are based on best practices and will help keep you safe.

[Read More](#)

GEO Strike Update, April 1

After six bargaining sessions since the strike began on March 19, the University and the Graduate Employees Organization have made very little progress to come to an agreement, particularly on wages and fees. The University continues to bargain in good faith. We are ready to reach an agreement that is fair and equitable for both parties. Tentative agreements have been reached between the parties to make no changes to a substantial part of the overall agreement.

[Read More](#)

Campus Conversation

Please join us for the upcoming Campus Conversation, co-sponsored by the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, on Tuesday, April 2, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Michele M. Thompson Rooms, Student Center West. The title of this conversation is "What's Going on and Why? The Politics of Racial Resentment and the Cost to Health."

[Read More](#)

[Campus events](#)

- April 2: [Sparky's Drag Race](#)
 - April 2: [Asian American Awareness Month Kick-Off](#)
 - April 3: [27th annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival](#)
 - April 3: [Architect Presentations for Performing Arts Center Design Competition](#)
 - April 4: [Grant Writing Workshop](#)
 - April 7: [Spring Seed Swap](#)
 - April 8: [UIC Clothing Swap](#)
-

UIC in the News

[White people's diets are killing the environment: study](#)
New York Post

[A Dire Diagnosis](#)
Chicago Health

[UI Health Betting on Integrated Health Homes](#)
Health News Illinois

[UIC today](#)

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MailPoet





MailPoet



From: Academic Town Hall
To: ACADEMY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: Administration and GEO viewpoints together
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 12:34:38 AM

Dear Colleagues:

The Administration Media Monopoly was in full tilt yesterday. Because intellectual life (but not administrative life) is about the free exchange of ideas, I include here two messages with very different viewpoints.

Below: one of the administration's messages (with apologies for repetition, as your tax money is paying for its distribution to everyone in the UIC community).

Above: the response from Radio Free GEO.

Of particular note: the way that the GEO calls out the administration for consistently talking about "false narratives" without providing evidence. It seems that a certain president has perfected this method of smearing the opposition: declaring something "fake news" without providing any evidence. (Count me as old-fashioned, but I do think that most of us in our scholarly community continue to approve of evidence.)

But first, a *Tribune* article:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-at-chicago-graduate-student-strike-20190401-story.html>

Solidarity,

Robert Johnston

Professor of History

Chief Steward, UICUF

Chancellor Amiridis, Provost Poser, and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Robert Barish--none of whom have ever come to a single GEO bargaining session over the past 13 months--just sent this message to the entire campus community. We would be very interested in knowing which "false narratives" they are referring to, exactly. Is it anything like the false narrative that grad workers make "akin to \$62,000"?

They say they're "patiently waiting" for us to return to the bargaining table. We've returned to the bargaining table 6 times since the strike began, including this past Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We've informed them we can return again on Wednesday afternoon. We have contacted the chancellor and provost about attending our next bargaining session so we can finally sit down and talk with a decision-maker, but they have not responded.

They say they're "ready to negotiate," but in the past 6 bargaining sessions they have continued to be unwilling to even consider partial fee waivers or caps, nor have they offered us a new proposal on wages or healthcare since before the strike began. The only new thing they've proposed is an extra \$50 per semester next year only. Meanwhile, GEO has offered them revised proposals on everything, including modest step-downs on several proposals.

Chancellor Amiridis and Provost Poser, why don't at least one of you come to our next bargaining session so we can discuss these issues face to face and have a real dialogue and real negotiation for once? The sooner we do, the sooner this can end.

From: Faculty Official Announcements [mailto:OFFICIALX_FACULTY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU] **On Behalf Of** Official Announcement

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 7:20 PM

To: OFFICIALX_FACULTY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU

Subject: [OFFICIALX_FACULTY] Message from leadership regarding GEO negotiations



Dear Faculty, Students, and Staff,

Many of you have been expressing your support for our graduate and teaching assistants during the GEO strike. We share your concern about their important role. Furthermore, we understand the financial needs of graduate students, as well as all employees of UIC, and we are doing our best to address them through collective bargaining. At the same time, we are trying to protect UIC's ability to fulfill its mission within our financial constraints and resources.

The University has been bargaining in good faith with the GEO and has been attempting to negotiate a settlement that will be fair to GEO within the constraint of the University's financial situation. We have already offered approximately 12 percent in wage increases over the next three years and covered all health insurance increases. GEO demands 23 percent increase in wages and waiver of almost all fees. A more comprehensive communication will be forthcoming outlining in more detail what the University has offered and what the GEO demands.

For the good of the University, we have chosen not to respond to the false narratives that have been widely disseminated. We are patiently waiting for the GEO leadership to come to the table ready to negotiate and not simply demand. There is still room for negotiating and we will continue to do so until we reach a resolution.

The University intends to continue normal operations during the strike. Students and parents can be assured that we are focused on minimizing the disruption of classes, meeting educational objectives, and ensuring timely grading. The GEO has informed students not to attend class. However, students are expected to be in classes while they are in session.

Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis
Chancellor

Susan Poser
Provost

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

ACADEMY@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU To subscribe: <<mailto:listserv@uic.edu?body=sub%20ACADEMY>> To unsubscribe: <<mailto:listserv@uic.edu?body=signoff%20ACADEMY>> Archives: <http://listserv.uic.edu/archives/academy.html>

From: Chicago Tribune Business
To: [Bills-Windt, Caryn A](#)
Subject: Donald Trump's 2017 tax law could revive Chicago's poorest areas
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 12:35:00 PM

Chicago Tribune

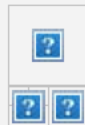


[VIEW IN BROWSER](#)

APRIL 5, 2019

CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

WORKING LUNCH



ADVERTISEMENT

Chicago's poorest neighborhoods may be transformed
by billions invested in 135 'opportunity zones'



RYAN ORI: Tax incentives from the "opportunity zones" program could help launch huge projects such as the Burnham Lakefront, a multibillion-dollar plan for the former Michael Reese Hospital site, as well as encourage development of the 440-acre South Works steel mill site and investment in Englewood neighborhood data centers. "It may be the largest single tax benefit of the century," said Avy Stein of private equity firm Cresset Partners.



[READ MORE](#)

Jeanne Gang's O'Hare design looks anything but stress-free, especially for wheelchair users



BLAIR KAMIN: Escalators pose dangers and people in wheelchairs can't use them. So it is surprising and disappointing that the visionary, usually level-headed Chicago architect Jeanne Gang has made escalators a central feature of her design for the Global Terminal at O'Hare International Airport.

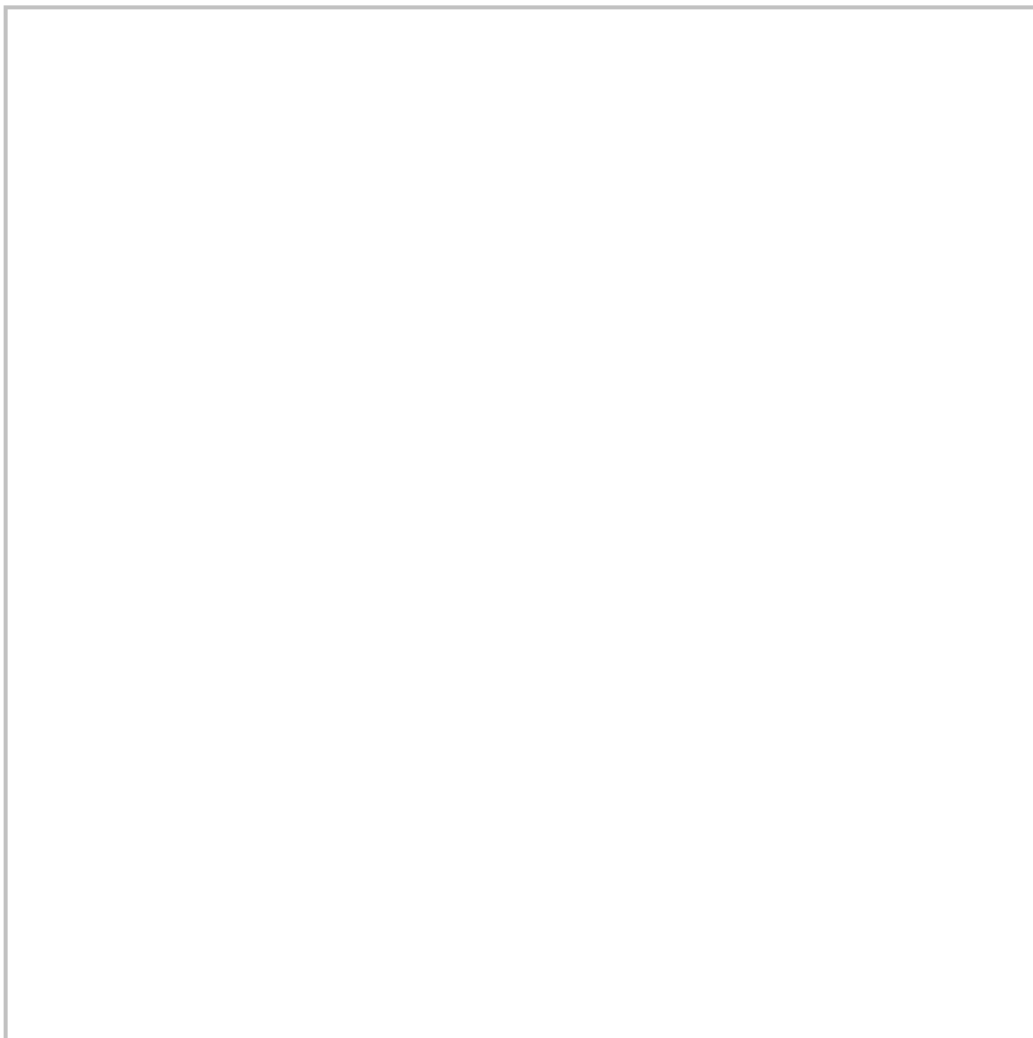


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UIC, teaching assistants reach tentative contract agreement, but strike still on



Teaching and graduate assistants at University of Illinois at Chicago have reached a tentative agreement with administration for a new contract, but graduate students plan to continue their strike Friday until the two sides finalize terms to end the nearly three-week-long walkout. At least 550 classes were canceled in the first week of the walkout, March 19 to 22, according to documents obtained by the Tribune.



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Ralph Nader: Boeing 737 Max 'should never fly again'



Consumer rights advocate Ralph Nader, the uncle of a woman killed in last month's Ethiopian Airlines crash, called for a recall and consumer boycott of the Boeing 737 Max. The family of Nader's niece, 24-year-old Samya Stumo, has filed a lawsuit against Chicago-based Boeing, one of its suppliers and Ethiopian Airlines. The family also filed a claim against the Federal Aviation Administration.

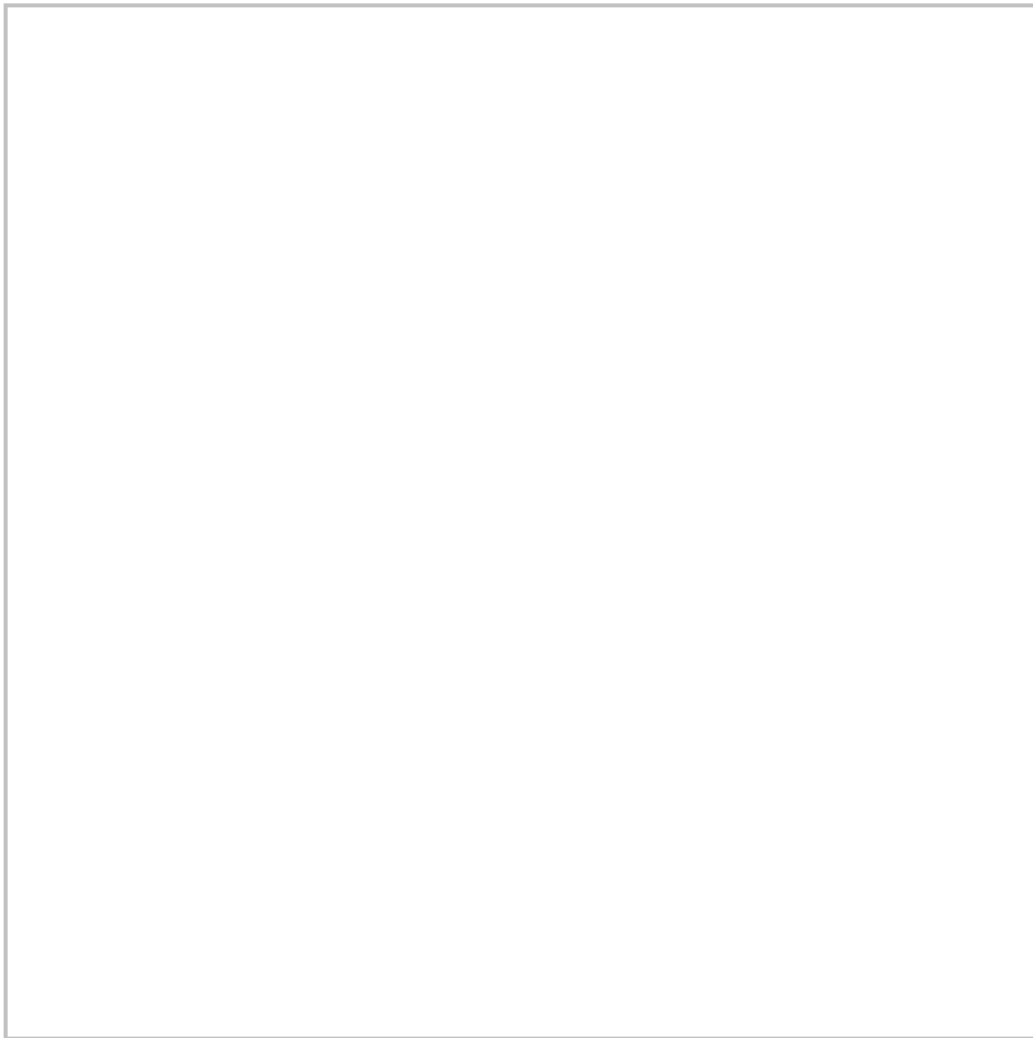


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**Additional software problem detected in Boeing 737
Max flight-control system, officials say**



Federal aviation regulators have ordered Chicago-based Boeing to fix a second problem — separate from the anti-stall system under investigation in two recent crashes — with the flight-control system of its grounded 737 Max. The problem pertains to software affecting flaps and other flight stabilization hardware and is classified as critical to flight safety, said two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.



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University of Illinois System Office for University Relations Media Advisory



NEWS AND TRENDS, April 4, 2019

- 1 – UI president: Boosting university's budget would pay off for state, NG, Apr 4
- 2 – University of Illinois Day celebrated in the Capitol, Fox Illinois, Apr 3
- 3 – Experts Gather To Discuss Link Between Poverty & Health, Explore Solutions, Illinois Public Media, Apr 3
- 4 – UI's decision on drinks at games about more than just beer money, NG, Apr 3
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- 6 – Detecting eye and brain disease earlier, MDLinx, Apr 4
- 7 – Illinois farmers have history of growing hemp, AgriNews, Apr 3

8 – GEO petitions against UI support for ICE, DI, Apr 4

9 – With the admissions scandal in the news, we asked 10 Chicago CEOs: Does where you go to college really matter?, Tribune, Apr 3

1 – UI president: Boosting university's budget would pay off for state

University of Illinois President Tim Killeen called investment in higher education "part of the solution" to the UI's well-documented fiscal issues during its annual lobby day Wednesday at the state Capitol.

Killeen, who is scheduled to address a Senate appropriations committee today, spoke with reporters about the university's \$600 million operating budget request and \$700 million capital-projects request.

"We're looking for a state budget that will take us back close to the 2015 fiscal year levels," Killeen said, adding that the \$600 million would be a 16 percent increase over last year's funding.

He called fiscal 2016 — the costliest year in a multiyear state budget impasse under former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner — the "year that never happened," noting the university system saw a \$400 million funding cut then.

Funding is "nowhere near where it was in the early 2000s at the turn of the century," Killeen said. "We're looking to get back to, I would say, normal, in terms of the state's support for higher ed."

Still, the UI came out stronger than most state schools in that span, Killeen said. The university system's 86,000 students across three campuses represent "significant growth" from before the impasse, and he said the increased funding would help add professors to accommodate the growth.

Despite the impasse, Killeen said, the university has frozen tuition rates the past five years in an effort to keep education affordable and accessible.

While the \$600 million request would serve operational purposes and allow the university to focus on affordability, Killeen said, the \$700 million capital request would fund just part of the UI system's \$2.4 billion in deferred maintenance costs at state-owned facilities.

Those costs have grown for more than a decade, as Illinois has not had a capital projects bill since 2010. Lawmakers have been discussing avenues such as gas tax increases to help fund maintenance to roads, bridges and state-owned buildings, including those for universities and colleges.

Killeen said that while the UI requests seem large, investment in state colleges and universities is a way to combat fiscal issues — not to exacerbate them.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-04/ui-president-boosting-universitys-budget-would-pay-state.html>

See also: https://herald-review.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/u-of-i-president-investment-in-higher-education-part-of/article_a797a2af-3ec8-553f-953d-39cdd10fa2fe.html

2 – University of Illinois Day celebrated in the Capitol

Wednesday was the University of Illinois Day at the State Capitol.

All three universities came together to advocate for funding for U of I.

They are pushing to enhance many programs in the university system that school officials said could boost the economy.

"For students to stay in Illinois and go to Illinois universities - not just the University of Illinois, but others," Chairman of U of I Advocacy Committee Randy Witter said.

...

<https://foxillinois.com/news/local/university-of-illinois-day-celebrated-in-the-capitol>

3 – Experts Gather To Discuss Link Between Poverty & Health, Explore Solutions

Poverty can lead to negative health outcomes, and a group of public health and policy experts will gather this week to craft a strategy to address the problem.

The events taking place in Urbana and Chicago this Thursday and Friday, respectively, are open to the public and hosted by the University of Illinois Epstein Health Law and Policy Program.

U of I law professor Robin Fretwell Wilson, director of the Epstein program, says the goal of the

"Medicalization of Poverty" event is to explore how poverty is linked to negative health outcomes and work together to craft better policy.

Speakers at the panel discussion at 4 p.m. on Thursday at the U of I College of Law will include Wilson, U of I sociology professor Ruby Mendenhall and University of South Florida public health professor Marissa Levine.

The roundtable discussion at the U of I Discovery Partners Institute in Chicago will include Dr. Nirav Shah, former director of the Illinois Department of Public Health; Dr. Julie Morita, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health; Levine; Utah State Senate Whip Daniel Hemmert; Andrea Garcia, director of science, medicine and public health at the American Medical Association; and a delegate from the office of U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar.

...

<https://will.illinois.edu/news/story/experts-gather-to-explore-link-between-poverty-health>

4 – UI's decision on drinks at games about more than just beer money

After \$7 domestics and \$8 craft brews go on sale this fall at State Farm Center and Memorial Stadium, revenue from the public beer sales is expected to top \$100,000 in its first year.

But UI senior associate athletic director Marty Kaufmann said overhead costs involved with setting up the sales will lower profits, especially in Year 1.

"There will probably be an increase in the low six figures," Kaufmann said Tuesday, the day Illinois announced it would begin making beer available at select sporting events later this year. "But we've found when researching this that Year 1, you have some operational costs. Everybody thinks there's going to be a windfall, but ... that's not necessarily the case right away."

And he said the bigger revenue increases should come from getting more fans in the stadiums.

"We want more people who have tickets to come into the stadium and stay longer," Kaufmann said. "Hopefully, we'll have a better environment, which helps us win more games."

Part of the revenue increase will go toward paying for more security at games, even though UI officials expect alcohol-related incidents to decrease.

"It's something we're doing right now as an overabundance of caution," said Pat Wade, spokesman for the University of Illinois Police. "We want to be sure we're ready for anything."

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-03/uis-decision-drinks-games-about-more-just-beer-money.html>

See also: <http://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2019-04-04/editorial-bottoms.html>

<https://foxillinois.com/news/local/beer-at-illini-games-more-than-just-a-money-maker>

5 – Illinois Medical District unveils big plans for the future

The 560-acre Illinois Medical District (IMD) on Chicago's Near West Side could look very different in the coming years thanks to an ambitious initiative aimed at transforming the area's vacant land into a burgeoning mixed-use innovation district.

"We are trying to market the district in a way that embraces more urban-style development," Ryan Gage, communications director with the Illinois Medical District, told Curbed. "If you come to the district now, some of the development is older and has a suburban office park feeling. Outlined in our master plan, we would offer a broader mix of uses and foster a physical environment that creates public gathering spaces to encourage collaboration."

A recent promotional video previewed the IMD's more urban future, showcasing new retail, hotel, and civic components as well as a pair of striking gold-colored towers rising near the intersection of Ogden and Polk. While the conceptual towers are little more than eye-catching placeholders at this point, the animation illustrates the area's untapped potential.

"This is about putting a new face on the IMD," explained Christine Carlyle, principal and director of planning of Solomon Cordwell Buenz, the Chicago-based architecture firm heading the master plan. "In the past the medical institutions have been more inward facing and islands, but now these new pedestrian spaces and redevelopment opportunities could bridge the gaps and enliven the area."

The district is currently home to 40 healthcare institutions including the University of Illinois at

Chicago Hospital, Rush University Medical Center, and Stroger Hospital and is the largest urban medical district in the country. Its leadership, however, believes there is much more to come.

...

<https://chicago.curbed.com/2019/4/3/18293798/illinois-medical-district-redevelopment-mixed-use-innovation>

6 – Detecting eye and brain disease earlier

The eyes may be the window to the soul, but to scientists, they are also the window to the brain. In particular, the retina, a delicate light-sensing neural network with specialized cells at the back of the eyeball, is linked directly to the brain via the optic nerve and is considered by some to be part of the brain itself.

Now, researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) are developing imaging techniques that will allow them to study minute changes in the retina that indicate the early stages of brain diseases like Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Their work is funded by a \$1.4 million, 4-year grant from the National Institutes of Health National Eye Institute.

The research, led by Xincheng Yao, the Richard & Loan Hill professor of bioengineering and professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at UIC, will look at how changes in the connections between nerves and blood vessels in the retina—known as neurovascular coupling—are related to the development of eye diseases like age-related macular degeneration and brain diseases like Alzheimer's.

...

<https://www.mdlinx.com/neurology/top-medical-news/article/2019/04/04/7562903>

7 – Illinois farmers have history of growing hemp

Hemp plants are grown for food, fiber or medicine.

"Hemp is one of the fastest growing plants and one of the first plants to be farmed over 10,000 years ago," said Chris Berry, vice chairman of the Illinois Hemp Grower's Association. "It's an annual that grows well in the Midwest."

Industrial hemp grows like a row crop when you're producing seed or fiber and much like a vegetable crop when growing it for flower, Berry explained during the Industrial Hemp Production Workshop organized by the University of Illinois Extension.

Illinois farmers have a history for growing hemp crops.

"The Polo Hemp Mill was a pilot plant for the USDA that created a hemp division to establish 42 hemp mills during the World War II era," Berry said. "Eleven mills were in Illinois, so Illinois had over 25 percent of the mills, even though there were six states involved in the program."

...

http://www.agrinews-pubs.com/news/illinois-farmers-have-history-of-growing-hemp/article_00fbc5d6-06be-54f0-8de5-679c82a2edae.html

8 – GEO petitions against UI support for ICE

On March 10, the Graduate Employees' Organization Solidarity Committee shared on their Facebook page a petition calling for the University to end their support for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol on the basis of these organization's "racist immigration policies."

The shared petition is directed specifically to the Career Center, Student Affairs and the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Institute. The petition references a National Public Radio report on documents collected by the American Civil Liberties Union, which exposed how migrants were abused physically, sexually and psychologically by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

According to the petition, "The University of Illinois Career Services and Student Affairs should stop hosting job postings for the Border Patrol and for all other agencies involved in the abuse of migrants. In addition, (UI) should cease partnering with the (Department of Homeland Security) and providing research and technological support to these agencies."

"We are dedicated to giving all students a wide variety of employment options to explore. Individual students determine which employers and opportunities may or may not align with their diverse

talents, values and interests,” said Jennifer Neef, director of the Career Center.

...

<https://dailyillini.com/news/2019/04/04/geo-shares-petition-against-university-support-for-ice-border-patrol/>

9 – With the admissions scandal in the news, we asked 10 Chicago CEOs: Does where you go to college really matter?

The national college admissions scandal that has rocked elite universities revived the discussion about whether where you go to college determines success and the role of privilege in that process.

With actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman and other wealthy parents appearing in court Wednesday to face charges, the conversation over college cred is particularly timely as colleges release their admission decisions and high school seniors and their families send off deposits by May 1 to secure a spot in the class of 2023.

The Tribune reached out to some Chicago-area CEOs to ask where they went to college and what they got out of it. Many went on to earn advanced degrees at other institutions, but we found they put a lot of stock in their undergraduate experiences.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-ceos-illinois-where-went-to-college-20190327-story.html>

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University of Illinois System Office for University Relations Media Advisory



NEWS AND TRENDS, April 5, 2019

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- 2 – Legislators ask UI to help cover shortfall in College Illinois program, NG, Apr 5
- 3 – Deal reached with U of Illinois-Chicago; strike continues, WGN, Apr 5
- 4 – UIC Researchers Aim to Detect Brain Disease Earlier with \$1.4M Grant, WTTW, Apr 4
- 5 – Journalism tries to adapt, Illinois Times, Apr 4
- 6 – Peoria Innovation Alliance will work to spark growth through remembering the past, WEEK, Apr 4
- 7 – Judge denies bid for MBA from UI student dismissed after sex-assault accusations, NG, Apr 5

- 8 – Higher education advocates find new optimism at Illinois Capitol, Herald&Review, Apr 4
- 9 – Tutors, private test prep coaches, homework therapists. Rich kids have all the academic advantages money can buy. But at what cost?, Tribune, Apr 5
- 10 – Illinois projects \$100K profit from beer sales at sporting events in 1st year, Tribune, Apr 4
- 11 – Did Babe Ruth's legendary 1919 Tampa home run really go 587 feet?, KTVU, Apr 4

1 – U of I officials defend need for increased state funding

The University of Illinois system is seeking a 16.5 percent increase in funding, which would help the campuses with faculty recruitment and retention and financial aid to encourage high school students to stay in state, officials said Thursday.

The system is seeking \$692.5 million in operating funds, according to Timothy Killeen, the U of I president.

And although the request is a double-digit increase over last year, if the dollars are adjusted for inflation, it is still below the funding level for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, he noted.

"We do feel that the state should be investing more in public higher education," Killeen told the committee, adding that university officials were "delighted" to see Gov. J.B. Pritzker put an emphasis on education in his budget proposal.

The U of I is also requesting \$722.4 million for capital needs, including repairs and renovations across the system. Some would also go toward upgrading libraries at each campus.

...

<https://www.sj-r.com/news/20190404/u-of-i-officials-defend-need-for-increased-state-funding>

See also: https://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/education/u-of-i-system-seeks-funding-hike-from-state/article_17463ce7-6dda-5d6a-bf13-b8b2ca36813f.html

2 – Legislators ask UI to help cover shortfall in College Illinois program

Some state senators want the University of Illinois and other public universities to help cover a projected shortfall in the state's prepaid-college-tuition program as part of a state bailout, to avert bigger financial problems down the road.

At an appropriations hearing on the UI's fiscal 2020 budget request, Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign, asked UI President Tim Killeen for the university's help in addressing a \$308 million unfunded liability for the College Illinois program.

For a number of reasons — including low investment returns and a drop-off in sales during the Great Recession — the program won't be able to meet all of its obligations starting in 2026.

Bennett said the other big factor was tuition inflation, citing "massive" UI tuition increases from 2000 to 2014, before a five-year tuition freeze took effect. The UI's base tuition rate rose from roughly \$3,700 to \$12,000 in that period.

That made it hard for College Illinois to earn an investment return large enough to cover future tuition costs, he said.

...

Killeen acknowledged Bennett's point, noting that he wasn't president in the early 2000s, but also said the tuition increases came in response to steeply declining state support during that period.

Another factor was the state's guaranteed-tuition law, which keeps tuition flat for four years for each incoming class, he said. The UI increased freshman rates each year in response.

"I've been told our university had no input in investments" or contract pricing for College Illinois, Killeen added.

He said the UI can't absorb a \$300 million shortfall but is willing to work with legislators on that and other underlying structural problems.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-05/legislators-ask-ui-help-cover-shortfall-college-illinois-program.html>

3 – Deal reached with U of Illinois-Chicago; strike continues

A union representing graduate student employees at the University of Illinois at Chicago says they're

staying on strike despite reaching a tentative contract agreement with the school.

The union announced Thursday night that the 3-year agreement will help ensure more financial stability for graduate workers. It says, however, the administration's bargaining team didn't have the authority negotiate on issues such as how graduate workers can make up lost pay for their time on strike.

The university confirmed to the Chicago Sun-Times that an agreement was reached but declined further comment.

The Chicago Tribune reports at least 550 classes taught by assistants were canceled from March 19 to March 22, early in the walkout by members of the Graduate Employees Organization.

...

<https://wgntv.com/2019/04/05/deal-reached-with-u-of-illinois-chicago-strike-continues/>

See also: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/business/university-illinois-chicago-uic-teaching-graduate-assistants-strike/>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-at-chicago-strike-classes-20190404-story.html>

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/uic-grad-workers-tentative-contract-but-strike-continues/6778bbec-befa-45b8-a2e6-3d26e2e55072>

4 – UIC Researchers Aim to Detect Brain Disease Earlier with \$1.4M Grant

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago are developing imaging techniques that will allow them to study small changes in the retina that could indicate the early stages of brain diseases.

Their work is being funded by a \$1.4 million, four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. The research will look at how changes in the connections between nerves and blood vessels in the retina are related to the development of eye diseases, like age-related macular degeneration, and brain diseases, like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

"Many times, the only way we can tell there is a disease is once clinical symptoms appear, but the disease process starts long before that," said Xincheng Yao, a professor of bioengineering, ophthalmology and visual sciences at UIC who's leading the research.

Researchers believe the imaging technique known as the optical coherence tomography and OCT angiography (OCTA) technique could be used to discover diseases earlier by detecting minute changes other imaging techniques cannot.

...

<https://news.wttw.com/2019/04/04/uic-researchers-aim-detect-brain-disease-earlier-14m-grant>

5 – Journalism tries to adapt

At one point in time, the newspaper business was seen as a "cash cow," says Jon Whitney, Illinois Press Foundation board member and publisher of Carroll County Review. But there's been a sharp decline in print advertising revenue since 2006, when it peaked at \$49.3 billion, according to a 2018 report from Pew Research. By 2016, print media advertising revenue had declined to \$18.3 billion, less than half of what it had been generating just a decade earlier.

The time of locally owned newspapers is almost a thing of the past with most publications now part of chains with corporate owners who care primarily about the bottom line.

The revenue concerns at the top of media corporations have trickled down to those working in skeleton newsrooms across the country, where sources in this story have seen their colleagues and friends lose jobs due to layoffs, leaving them to wonder if they would be next.

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University of Illinois Springfield offers a master's level Public Affairs Reporting program, which is similar to University of Kansas' advanced media undergraduate course. The UIS program has been in existence since 1972 but recently has needed to reduce the number of students admitted to the program due to the declining number of Statehouse bureaus.

Wheeler, who now serves as the PAR adviser since retiring from the Chicago Sun-Times in August of 1993, said the program is committed to placing students in a Statehouse reporting internship for real-world experience.

...

<https://illinoistimes.com/article-21095-journalism-tries-to-adapt.html>

6 – Peoria Innovation Alliance will work to spark growth through remembering the past

Innovation is one of those popular buzz words you hear all the time. But what it means to some greater Peoria businesses is creating more than just buzz. Alliance Founder and Executive Director Jake Hamann says many of these cutting edge business are unheard of in the community. "One is called Enduvo, one's called Natural Fiber Welding, another is called Bump Boxes. When I talk to citizens here they don't even know they exist, but a lot of them are here in our backyard," explained Hamann.

Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis says innovation can mean a lot of things, but for businesses in Central Illinois, it means learning from the past. "It's the ability to look at the new and better ways to provide that to the consumers that will create business and create jobs," said Ardis. He said there is a lot to be proud of in the Peoria community. "From the Ag Lab to a lot of the R and D (research and development) being done by Caterpillar, and the college of medicine and all of our hospitals. We're talking a billion dollars a year being spent in the Peoria area," explained Ardis.

...

<https://week.com/news/top-stories/2019/04/04/peoria-innovation-alliance-will-work-to-spark-growth-through-remembering-the-past/>

7 – Judge denies bid for MBA from UI student dismissed after sex-assault accusations

U.S. District Judge Colin Bruce has denied an emergency request to grant a University of Illinois MBA degree to a former student accused of sexual assault.

The student filed a federal lawsuit last month arguing his due-process rights had been violated during the UI's investigation and said he faces termination at his job in Boston if he doesn't have his degree by April 15.

The student, an Indian citizen identified only as "John Doe," had also been planning on having his employer sponsor him for his visa, which expires June 30.

He was accused by another MBA student of sexual assault after he graduated in May 2018, but before he had received his degree.

A panel found him responsible for sexual assault, and after two appeals, he was eventually dismissed from the UI.

Bruce denied his emergency request this week, concluding that the lawsuit was improperly filed.

The main problem, Bruce said, is that Doe is suing the UI Board of Trustees as an entity, rather than as individuals.

Under the 11th Amendment to the Constitution, people can't sue a state, though lawsuits against individual state officials are allowed if they're violating federal law.

Bruce also took issue with the proposed remedy of granting Doe an MBA degree.

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<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-04-05/judge-denies-bid-mba-ui-student-dismissed-after-sex-assault-accusations.html>

8 – Higher education advocates find new optimism at Illinois Capitol

There was much ado about higher education in the Illinois Capitol Thursday, as lawmakers discussed funding increases for higher education, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a bill to strengthen a financial aid program and higher education advocates rallied on the Capitol rotunda.

Pritzker signed House Bill 2505, allowing universities to retain unused funding for the Aspirational Institutional Match Helping Illinois Grow Higher Education, or AIM HIGH, program. The program helps students who meet income and performance requirement obtain financial aid at state universities.

Pritzker signed the bill, which was passed during the previous General Assembly, at Southeast High School in Springfield.

"After many years of a declining percentage of Illinois students choosing to stay in state, AIM HIGH is helping us change that dynamic, making it more affordable for students and their families to choose

to stay here,” Pritzker said in remarks released by his office after the signing.

...

https://herald-review.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/higher-education-advocates-find-new-optimism-at-illinois-capitol/article_48b93614-a1b6-55ff-a727-c86c338c5558.html

See also: <https://www.daily-chronicle.com/2019/04/04/gov-pritzkers-aim-high-legislation-strengthens-aim-high-grant-program-increase-enrollment/ar7rj0/>

9 – Tutors, private test prep coaches, homework therapists. Rich kids have all the academic advantages money can buy. But at what cost?

It's 3:30 on a Wednesday afternoon in north suburban Glencoe, one of the wealthiest towns in the U.S. The quiet, brick-lined streets of the business district are about to get louder. Two blocks away, the town's middle school has just let out, and packs of kids are pouring into Starbucks for a \$4 lemonade or hot chocolate. But a few are headed to the town's newest business, The House, which calls itself the world's first tutoring lounge.

The \$250 per month cost buys membership to this hip hangout with on-demand tutoring. Like any private club, it has rules. Members may bring a guest. All are welcome, except one group — parents. With music thumping and a fun pop-art wall mural at the entrance, it doesn't resemble anyone's stereotype of a tutoring center. Sixth- through 12th-graders are gathering on colorful floor pillows, swinging chairs, modern comfy couches and glass-walled rooms with fireplaces where they can study together. Come 4:30 p.m., the music is turned down, and a team of tutors starts roaming about to see who needs help, similar to an Apple Genius Bar. Five- to 10-minute tutoring is included in the monthly membership. Kids who need more time can book half-hour increments for \$50 at the touch of a button, on a custom-designed app called homework.sucks. Clearly these people understand kids.

Lisa Micele also understands kids. As director of college counseling at the University of Illinois Laboratory High School in Urbana, she worries that the big business of tutoring (some analysts predict it will reach \$227 billion globally by 2022) may keep kids from being schooled in other important life lessons. “We all want kids to take pride in their learning and be equipped with healthy coping skills when they fail. When they rely on outside help to keep them organized, push them ahead and coach them on every test, I worry about their self-advocacy and time management skills,” says Micele. “I also worry about a student's positive self-concept of themselves. I had a student tell me they weren't proud of their high SAT score because they only accomplished it through someone else's help.”

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/sc-fam-wealthy-kids-education-advantages-0409-story.html>

10 – Illinois projects \$100K profit from beer sales at sporting events in 1st year

Athletics officials at the University of Illinois say the decision to sell beer in general seating areas at football and basketball games could net the school over \$100,000 in the first year.

Illini officials announced Tuesday that beer can be purchased at several stands around Memorial Stadium starting this fall. The News-Gazette reports that associate athletic director Marty Kaufmann notes overhead costs will likely lower profits in year one.

Alcoholic beverages will still be sold in premium seating areas.

A share of sales will pay for additional security at games, although Kaufmann expects fewer alcohol-related incidents. He says stadium beer sales should deter binge drinking during tailgating and discourage fans from smuggling beer inside.

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<https://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/college/ct-spt-illinois-beer-sales-profit-20190404-story.html>

See also: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/illini-officials-project-100k-profit-in-stadium-beer-sales-508122731.html>

11 – Did Babe Ruth's legendary 1919 Tampa home run really go 587 feet?

On the 100th anniversary of Babe Ruth's historic home run in Tampa, several scholars are asking if it ever went the 587 feet quoted on a billboard in the spot it supposedly landed, near at the University of

Tampa.

If you were one of 4,300 at Plant Field on April 4, 1919, at what is now UT, you would have seen Babe Ruth, his mammoth swing, and maybe the farthest homer ever hit.

"They were just astonished by how far it went," said Babe Ruth scholar Jane Leavy.

Back in 1919, there was a racetrack near the Tampa Hotel with a ballfield in the middle.

"It went over the rail of the racetrack and just kept going," Leavy said of Ruth's legendary home run.

The right-fielder showed reporters where it landed. The Boston Globe then marched off 189 paces of slightly more than three feet. They called the homer a "boost" and said it was certainly more than 540 feet. Leavy says estimates range from 540 feet to 625 feet.

"Nobody had seen anything like this before," said Leavy. "Babe Ruth was inventing and announcing power baseball with that swing."

...

University of Illinois professor Alan Nathan says under optimal conditions, but without wind, the farthest a big-league homer can go is just under 500 feet. That requires the ball to be hit at an exit velocity of 120 miles per hour. That figure is well beyond most recorded today.

"Given a dispute between science and mythology, I am going to take the science," said Nathan.

...

<http://www.ktvu.com/sports/did-babe-ruth-s-1919-tampa-home-run-really-go-587-feet->

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NEWS AND TRENDS, March 19, 2019

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- 3 – Take a walk through "The Magnificently Mundane", ABC20, Mar 18
- 4 – U Of I Professor: Restorative Justice In Schools Requires Buy-In From Community, Illinois Public Media, Mar 19
- 5 – Phase-changing liquid coating keeps surfaces frost-free for longer, New Atlas, Mar 19
- 6 – STEM students would get free tuition under Illinois bill, Crain's, Mar 19
- 7 – The fastest computer in the world is being built 25 miles outside Chicago. Its name is Aurora., Tribune, Mar 18

8 – American to add second flight from Willard to Charlotte, N.C., NG, Mar 18

9 – Purdue has banned Netflix, Hulu and other streaming services. Will it get students to pay attention during class?, Tribune, Mar 19

10 – Here's What the Trump Administration Wants to Change in Higher Ed's Landmark Law, CHE, Mar 18

1 – UIC teaching assistants, graduate assistants go on strike

More than 1,500 teaching assistants and graduate assistants at the University of Illinois Chicago have gone on strike Tuesday.

They have been working without a contract since September. The union says they want better pay, fee waivers and increased paid parental leave.

The teaching assistants and graduate assistants will hold a rally outside the Jane Addams Hull House Tuesday afternoon.

It is the second year in a row that employees at a University of Illinois campus have gone on strike.

<https://abc7chicago.com/education/uic-teaching-assistants-graduate-assistants-go-on-strike/5205010/>

See also: <https://wgntv.com/2019/03/19/uic-graduate-workers-begin-strike-tuesday/>

2 – 2019 Ebertfest To Open With Aretha Franklin Concert Film

The Aretha Franklin concert film "Amazing Grace" will open this year's Roger Ebert film festival in Champaign-Urbana.

The University of Illinois says the 1972 film directed by Sydney Pollack has been stored in a vault for decades.

It's now been restored and released. It will kick off this year's Ebertfest followed by a live community choir performance.

...

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2019/03/18/2019-ebertfest-to-open-with-aretha-franklin-concert-film/>

3 – Take a walk through "The Magnificently Mundane"

The visual arts gallery at University of Illinois Springfield is offering art lovers the opportunity to check out something a bit more mundane.

A curatorial walkthrough of the exhibition, "The Magnificently Mundane," curated by Professor Brytton Bjorngaard will take place at the UIS Visual Arts Gallery on Wednesday, March 27 from 2-3 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

"The Magnificently Mundane" is a group exhibition that presents works selected from the field of graphic design.

...

<https://newschannel20.com/news/local/take-a-walk-through-the-magnificently-mundane>

4 – U Of I Professor: Restorative Justice In Schools Requires Buy-In From Community

Schools in Illinois and across the country are turning to restorative justice practices as an alternative to traditional discipline models. Mikhail Lyubansky, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, studies restorative justice, and he's written about some of the criticisms of the way it's used in schools.

While more schools are implementing restorative justice programs, Lyubansky says the educational community is still in the experimental phase — meaning schools don't yet have a model to turn to that spells out what restorative justice should look like in an educational context.

Lyubansky spoke with Illinois Public Media about the characteristics he believes define a successful school-based restorative justice program.

...

<https://will.illinois.edu/news/story/u-of-i-professor-restorative-justice-in-schools-requires-buy-in-from-commun>

5 – Phase-changing liquid coating keeps surfaces frost-free for longer

In cold places, ice and frost can be more than an annoyance – it can be downright dangerous for cars and planes. Now researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) have developed a new anti-icing material that can apparently keep ice at bay much longer than existing technologies. There are no shortage of methods for preventing ice building up where it's not wanted. Heat is a common factor – some materials trap it from sunlight, while others are powered, like electrified concrete at airports or carbon nanotubes in aircraft wings. Other materials are impregnated with salt, or repel water so it all just slides off.

The new material is made of phase-switching liquids (PSLs), and it also uses heat to keep ice away. Strangely enough, the heat comes from the water droplets themselves, which the PSLs are good at trapping.

...

<https://newatlas.com/anti-icing-materials-phase-changing-liquids/58913/>

6 – STEM students would get free tuition under Illinois bill

Facing a Democratic governor and General Assembly, a major Springfield business group has decided to go on the offense by pushing an issue with broad bipartisan appeal: filling tens of thousands of well-paying but vacant factory jobs.

In his first major legislative initiative, new Illinois Manufacturing Association President Mark Denzler says his top legislative priority is a bill that would waive tuition and other fees (including on-campus housing) at the University of Illinois and other state colleges and universities for students studying science, technology engineering or math who agree to teach in a state high school for at least three years after graduation, or a state institute of higher education for at least five years.

A related bill would provide a partial tax credit for educational expenses for employers who sponsor apprenticeship programs, many them high-tech manufacturers or companies with complex technologies or logistics.

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/greg-hinz-politics/stem-students-would-get-free-tuition-under-illinois-bill>

7 – The fastest computer in the world is being built 25 miles outside Chicago. Its name is Aurora.

Smack dab in the middle of a forest preserve about 25 miles west of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory is building the fastest computer in the world. Its name is Aurora.

Once it's turned on in 2021, Aurora will be able to do more than one quintillion (that's a 10 with 18 zeros behind it) operations per second, said Rick Stevens, associate laboratory director for computing, environment and life sciences at Argonne.

The \$500 million project is being funded by the Department of Energy. Argonne is working with Intel and Seattle-based supercomputer manufacturer Cray on Aurora. The original plan was to build a less powerful system, but after a government mandate in 2017 to accelerate high-performance computing in the U.S., Argonne shifted focus to make the Aurora system more powerful.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-worlds-fastest-computer-chicago-20190314-story.html>

8 – American to add second flight from Willard to Charlotte, N.C.

American Airlines plans to add a second daily flight from University of Illinois Willard Airport to Charlotte, N.C., starting in May.

The airline started one daily flight to Charlotte Douglas International Airport this past December, and plans to offer the second flight from May 3 through July 6.

"The one daily flight to Charlotte is performing very well," said Tim Bannon, Willard's interim executive director.

The two departing daily flights will leave Willard at 5:54 a.m. and 12:48 p.m., with returning flights scheduled to arrive at 12:08 p.m. and 8:49 p.m.

Flights can be booked immediately.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-03-18/american-add-second-flight-willard-charlotte-nc.html>

9 – Purdue has banned Netflix, Hulu and other streaming services. Will it get students to pay attention during class?

Faced with Wi-Fi that too often slowed to a crawl during the middle of class, Purdue University has taken a bold step to restore order to its network: It has banned Netflix.

Starting this week, the West Lafayette, Ind., campus is blocking the popular streaming video service in all of its academic buildings, along with other bandwidth-eating sites such as Hulu and HBO. The move comes after some faculty complained that the network had become so slow that academic applications were unusable during class.

"There's a finite amount of bandwidth available," said Mark Sonstein, the university's executive director of information technology infrastructure. "If you have people who are streaming a movie, then they are consuming all of the available bandwidth."

It's the latest skirmish in the never-ending struggle between teachers and distracted students, using a technological fix to do what some professors have achieved by rounding up smartphones before class. So far, it seems to be going over without much fuss: University officials say they haven't received any complaints.

"I heard about the bandwidth problem, but when the solution was implemented, I heard crickets," said Steve Beaudoin, a chemical engineering professor whose building was one of the first to block streaming sites.

Purdue appears to be one of the first colleges in the country to resort to this kind of technological barrier, even though it's common in secondary schools and corporate offices.

Chicago-based Roosevelt University said it doesn't block streaming services. Purdue's fellow Big 10 member, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, also takes a hands-off position.

"We have made significant investments in our network in order to provide our students, faculty and staff with the technological infrastructure to support their needs," a U. of I. spokesman said.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-purdue-netflix-ban-20190318-story.html>

10 – Here's What the Trump Administration Wants to Change in Higher Ed's Landmark Law

The White House on Monday released its first stand-alone proposal for higher-education reform, urging the U.S. Congress to enact laws affecting accreditation, Pell Grants, and student-loan repayment.

The plan repeats themes raised in President Trump's 2020 federal budget proposal and reflects division between Democrats and Republicans over the federal government's role in regulating the forces that shape colleges and the for-profit sector.

Trump's budget proposal for 2020, released last week, includes a \$7-billion cut in the U.S. Department of Education, a changed student-loan repayment process, and the elimination of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

Monday's proposal includes requests that Congress consolidate income-driven repayment programs into one "simplified" program, allow Pell funds to be directed toward students leaving prison and toward shorter-term programs offering certificates and licenses, and create a pilot program to direct nontraditional students toward "market-driven work-force development programs." It would define accreditors by mission rather than by geography. It would also orient federal work-study dollars toward specific career paths rather than "just subsidized employment as a means of financial aid." The proposal alludes to risk-sharing, the idea that colleges should share financial responsibility for student loans. And it asks Congress to make permanent the White House's working group and advisory board for historically black colleges and universities.

...

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Here-s-What-the-Trump/245919>

See also: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/03/19/trump-proposes-axing-nea-neh>

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NEWS AND TRENDS, March 20, 2019

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- 2 – U. of Illinois at Chicago Missed Warning Signs of Research Going Awry, Letters Show, CHE, Mar 20
- 3 – UI gets grant to pursue tobacco-free Champaign-Urbana campus, WAND, Mar 19
- 4 – Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us', Tribune, Mar 19
- 5 – The Unpaid Adjunct Ad That Wasn't (?), IHE, Mar 20
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7 – How Many Public Universities Can ‘Go Big’ Online?, IHE, Mar 20

8 – Inspector general report finds Randy Dunn mishandled multiple hirings, Daily Egyptian, Mar 18

9 – Closing the book on the sorry saga of Illinois' prepaid tuition plan, Crain's, Mar 19

10 – ‘Do You Pull the Parchment?': Students Caught Up in College Admissions Scandal Now Face a Reckoning, NYT, Mar 19

1 – Pritzker sets strict funding conditions for South Loop research center

The future of a huge research center in the South Loop once again is in grave doubt after the Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration added what appears to be onerous new conditions to state funding for the University of Illinois' Discovery Partners Institute.

The new governor in January told Crain's he wanted the research facility to fly even though it originally was proposed by the man he unseated, Bruce Rauner. Pritzker said the university would have to line up private funds rather than merely depending on the \$500 million in state cash that Rauner allotted, but suggested that was doable.

However, now comes word that Pritzker not only wants the university to match the \$500 million in state cash dollar-for-dollar, but wants the entire \$500 million in private funding in hand before any state money is released. That means that a public school with lots of financial challenges will have to raise \$500 million on its own first, a huge and perhaps insurmountable challenge.

The latest Pritzker questions came after Crain's inquired about language in Pritzker's proposed fiscal 2020 budget, which was unveiled in February.

The budget reappropriates the \$500 million that was budgeted last year, but describes it not as a grant but a state match for private donations from individuals, corporations or other entities. The budget language adds that "state matching funds will only be released if the corresponding private donations are secured."

...

"The University of Illinois System is deeply grateful for Gov. Pritzker's support and \$500 million in matching funds as part of his proposed fiscal 2020 budget," its spokesman said in a statement. "The U of I System is working closely with the administration in support of this grant and other initiatives in the governor's budget that support higher education, discovery, entrepreneurship and job creation." Pritzker's move also could impact other university projects above and beyond DPI. As my colleague Lynne Marek reported last summer, the University of Illinois at Chicago hoped to tap some of that \$500 million to build new computer science and drug research buildings. But none of that money was released before Rauner left office, and Pritzker now has imposed this new condition.

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/greg-hinz-politics/pritzker-sets-strict-funding-conditions-south-loop-research-center>

See also: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/columnists/ori/ct-biz-2019-chicago-megadevelopments-to-watch-ryan-ori-20181207-story.html>

2 – U. of Illinois at Chicago Missed Warning Signs of Research Going Awry, Letters Show

For a year, the University of Illinois at Chicago has played down its shortcomings in overseeing the work of a prominent child psychiatrist who violated research protocols and put vulnerable children with bipolar disorder at risk.

But documents newly obtained by ProPublica Illinois show that the university acknowledged to federal officials that it had missed several warning signs that Mani Pavuluri's clinical trial on lithium had gone off track, eventually requiring the university to pay an unprecedented \$3.1-million penalty to the federal government.

The university's Institutional Review Board, known as an IRB, the committee responsible for protecting research subjects, improperly fast-tracked approval of Pavuluri's clinical trial, didn't catch serious omissions from the consent forms parents had to sign, and allowed children to enroll in the study even though they weren't eligible, the documents show.

The IRB's shortcomings violated federal regulations meant to protect human subjects, putting it in "serious non-compliance," according to one of five letters from university officials to the federal

government the university turned over to ProPublica Illinois after a nearly yearlong appeal for the documents under open-records laws.

Still, university officials have continued to blame only Pavuluri. In written statements, the university told ProPublica Illinois last year — and again this week — that “internal safeguards did not fail” and that researchers are “responsible for the ethical and professional conduct” of their projects.

...

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/U-of-Illinois-at-Chicago/245931>

See also: <https://www.propublica.org/article/university-of-illinois-chicago-uic-research-misconduct-letters-documents>

3 – UI gets grant to pursue tobacco-free Champaign-Urbana campus

The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana has received a grant to pursue a tobacco-free campus. Grants from the CVS Health Foundation and the American Cancer Society will support efforts to advocate for, adopt and implement smoke- and tobacco-free policies. That would include limiting the use of e-cigarettes.

CVS Health announced it has provided a total of \$20,000 in grants through the CVS Health Foundation to the University of Illinois.

It is part of a more than \$1.4 million grant pool to 82 schools across the country.

The grants are delivered in partnership with the American Cancer Society and Truth Initiative.

...

https://www.wandtv.com/news/ui-gets-grant-to-pursue-tobacco-free-champaign-urbana-campus/article_1a8ec234-4a5d-11e9-b8e3-63f4ced95966.html

See also: <https://foxillinois.com/news/local/u-of-i-looks-to-make-campus-100-tobacco-smoke-free>

4 – Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: ‘We have to fight for the school to care about us’

Graduate student employees at the University of Illinois at Chicago, saying they don’t earn a living wage, went on strike Tuesday after more than a year of contract negotiations failed to produce a new work agreement.

Graduate and teaching assistants formed picket lines outside of several east campus buildings and held an afternoon rally and march.

“We have students going to food pantries and going on food assistance,” said doctoral candidate Hailee Yoshizaki-Gibbons, 33.

Leaders of the Graduate Employees Organization, which represents more than 1,500 graduate student university workers, said they plan to strike indefinitely. Their previous contract expired in September, and 99.5 percent of members formally authorized a strike in February, the union said.

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multibillion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.”

A university statement from Chancellor Michael Amiridis, Provost Susan Poser and Vice Chancellor Robert Barish said the university has participated in 22 negotiating sessions, including five with a federal mediator.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-chicago-graduate-assistants-strike-20190319-story.html>

See also: <https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/university-of-illinois-at-chicago-grad-students-strike-over-wages-and-fees/81321858-eb8b-4de9-ae56-7e94db2c163d>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/03/20/grad-assistants-strike-u-illinois-chicago>

5 – The Unpaid Adjunct Ad That Wasn't (?)

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign got skewered on social media Tuesday for advertising

"0 percent, [full-time equivalent], unpaid" adjunct faculty positions in social work, human behavior and social environment, and related areas. Minimum requirements included a master's degree in social work and prior teaching experience. Duties included preparing and teaching classes weekly. The online job ad said that an adjunct search committee will screen applicants to determine whether they are a "good fit" for the program and, "If considered to teach future courses, salary will be offered." Many readers understood the ad to mean that adjuncts would have to initially teach for free, as a kind of audition for additional courses -- and a salary. And they criticized Illinois for apparently exploiting a bad academic job market for free labor. Illinois wouldn't be the only institution accused of doing so. Last year, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale asked its professors to ask alumni to assist with faculty work.

Illinois quickly changed the ad to clarify that applicants will merely apply to be included in a pool of preapproved faculty candidates -- not to work for free, it says. Steven Anderson, dean of Illinois's School of Social Work, explained via email that the original post was "soliciting applicants who would be given 0 percent appointments in the school and therefore vetted and available to teach specific courses in the future as the school needed."

...

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/03/20/unpaid-adjunct-ad-wasnt>

6 – High schoolers surprised with UIC scholarships aimed at addressing lack of black male teachers

At Butler College Prep on the Far South Side, five seniors and a recent graduate were surprised on Tuesday afternoon with scholarships offered through a program aimed at addressing the lack of male African-American teachers in the country's schools.

As members of the second class of Call Me MISTER scholars, the teenagers were awarded full scholarships to study education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Classmates cheered as the students put on red and blue baseball caps at an end-of-day assembly. "I was in shock to hear my name called," said Teon Nesbitt, one of the recipients. "I'm an athlete, so I'm not used to being portrayed as an educator. But I work hard in class and on the court. So it just shows that you can be anything you want to."

Last fall, UIC launched the MISTER program — Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models — which recruits and trains male elementary education majors of color. Only an estimated 2 percent of teachers in public schools across the country — where half of those enrolled are students of color — are African-American men, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-uic-call-me-mister-scholarships-20190319-story.html>

7 – How Many Public Universities Can 'Go Big' Online?

From Massachusetts to California, as many as two dozen state university systems, individual flagship campuses and other public universities are talking publicly (or quietly) about undertaking ambitious online learning initiatives.

Some are focused on enrollment or revenue growth, some on better serving the millions of working adults or other populations of Americans that traditional higher education has historically struggled to reach.

Some aim to join the ranks of regional or even national players like Arizona State, Southern New Hampshire and Western Governors Universities; others strive to retake or hold on to state residents now studying online at institutions elsewhere.

"The time for us to act is now," Marty Meehan, president of the University of Massachusetts, said in announcing the system's online plan in a speech last month. "It's predicted that over the next several years four to five major national players with strong regional footholds will be established. We intend to be one of them."

...

But numerous public universities have suffered high-profile failures or false starts in efforts to launch major online operations -- most notably the University of Illinois's Global Campus, a separate online

arm that the California State University System sought to build, and multiple stunted efforts by the University of Texas system.

...

<https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2019/03/20/states-and-university-systems-are-planning-major-online>

8 – Inspector general report finds Randy Dunn mishandled multiple hirings

Former SIU President Randy J. Dunn improperly hired late Chancellor Carlo Montemagno's daughter and son-in-law as well as SIU's vice president for academic affairs, according to an Illinois Office of the Executive Inspector General report, the findings of which were obtained by the Daily Egyptian. Dunn entered a separation agreement with the Board of Trustees last July after it was discovered he coordinated with SIU Edwardsville administrators and legislators in an attempt to dissolve the university system.

The agreement stated Dunn would be entitled to a visiting professor position at SIUE for at least 18 months unless an external agency made a finding of his wrongdoing.

The agreement also stated Dunn's employment would cease immediately and automatically upon the issuance of any findings showing he violated SIU System or Illinois policy.

The Office of the Executive Inspector General recommended Dunn not be rehired within the SIU system due to the violation of his contract.

...

<https://dailyegyptian.com/92707/showcase/inspector-general-report-finds-randy-dunn-mishandled-multiple-hirings/>

9 – Closing the book on the sorry saga of Illinois' prepaid tuition plan

The first rule for getting out of a hole is to stop digging.

It took a while, but Illinois legislators, who ought to know something about financial holes, seem prepared to apply that well-known principle the state's underfunded prepaid college tuition program. College Illinois has \$300 million less than it needs to pay future tuition at Illinois universities for students whose parents bought prepaid contracts in the mistaken belief they were guaranteed by the state.

In fact, the state has no legally enforceable obligation to cover the gap between College Illinois' promises and its cash. Yet marketing materials from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, which administers College Illinois, created the false impression that Illinois stands behind the contracts.

As my colleague Steve Daniels reported recently, bills pending before the Illinois House and Senate would oblige the state to honor College Illinois contracts. Both bills provide that "the full faith and credit of the State of Illinois is pledged for the punctual payment of such obligations."

Another \$300 million IOU is exactly what cash-strapped Illinois doesn't need. Yet the moral case for covering the College Illinois contracts is indisputable.

A state agency duped parents into believing they were buying guaranteed tuition at Illinois public universities. In fact, those parents were unwittingly betting on ISAC's ability to invest their contract purchase money well enough to keep pace with tuition increases at state schools. ISAC investments fell far short as tuition surged over the past two decades. Projections indicate College Illinois will start running out of money in 2026, just as more than 2,500 contract holders' kids are reaching college age. Illinois can't leave those families holding the bag.

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/joe-cahill-business/closing-book-sorry-saga-illinois-prepaid-tuition-plan>

10 – 'Do You Pull the Parchment?': Students Caught Up in College Admissions Scandal Now Face a Reckoning

The many students enmeshed in the college admissions scandal that was unveiled last week now face a reckoning as universities seek to determine whether they were innocent victims who should

keep working toward their degrees or unethical schemers worthy of discipline.

The University of Southern California said it had identified six current applicants associated with the case and would reject them. The school informed an additional number of enrolled students who were linked to the scandal that they could not register for classes until administrators had determined their level of culpability.

Yale, another university implicated in the fraud, reminded students last week of a longstanding policy to rescind the admission of students who falsify applications. A statement from Stanford said that inaccurate information on a college application was grounds for being “disenrolled” from the university or having an offer of admission rescinded, “as has happened regretfully in the past.”

The 33 wealthy parents charged with paying large sums to get their children into leading universities are the targets of criminal complaints. But it is the schools themselves that must grapple with how to mete out justice to students who gained admissions through fraudulent means.

The scope of the scandal has left many college administrators in uncharted ethical territory.

...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/us/usc-admissions-scandal.html>

See also:

<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/How-Megadonors-Can-Fight-the/245914>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2019/03/20/university-southern-california-takes-new-actions-against-students>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/19/sports/college-admissions-scandal-athletes.html>

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Subject: NEWS AND TRENDS, March 26, 2019
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NEWS AND TRENDS, March 26, 2019

- 1 – UIC graduate workers get boost from Bernie Sanders on sixth day of strike, ST, Mar 25
- 2 – Award-winning author speaks at UIS for Women's History Month, ABC20, Mar 25
- 3 – Hail to Alma Mater on new campus license plate, NG, Mar 26
- 4 – (Teacher) Testing 1, 2, 3..., NPR Illinois, Mar 25
- 5 – Ice rink not solid part of development plan, yet, WCIA, Mar 25
- 6 – Startup Matching Foreign Med Students With U.S. Rotations Raises \$2.2M, Chicago Inno, Mar 25
- 7 – Rejected by your dream college? Spoiler: There are other paths to success and happiness., Tribune, Mar 26
- 8 – Illinois sues feds over Medicaid repayment order, Crain's, Mar 25

9 – Hank Bounds to Step Down as President of U. of Nebraska System, CHE, Mar 25

10 – Duke University to Pay \$112.5 Million to Settle Claims of Research Misconduct, NYT, Mar 25

1 – UIC graduate workers get boost from Bernie Sanders on sixth day of strike

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) graduate workers got a boost on their sixth day of striking from 2020 presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"I say to UIC: Sit down at the bargaining table. Negotiate in good faith. Pay your workers a living wage," Sanders said in a tweet expressing his solidarity with striking workers.

More than 1,500 teaching assistants went on strike last Tuesday, bringing the university's regular operations to a standstill with classes needing to be canceled or held online.

...

Graduate employees receive a minimum \$18,065 salary for two semesters of 20-hour work weeks, plus \$13,502 in tuition and fee waivers. The union is asking for a 24 percent increase, and the university is offering an 11.5 percent increase.

"UIC is dependent on the revenue from the general and international fees and is unable to meet requests to waive those fees for GEO employees," the university's online statement says.

...

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/business/bernie-sanders-uic-strike-graduate-workers-tweet/>

2 – Award-winning author speaks at UIS for Women's History Month

An award-winning author spoke at the University of Illinois Springfield's Speaker Series event Monday night.

To celebrate Women's History Month, Keona Ervin spoke about the history of black women's leadership in our region based on her book, "Gateway to Equality: Black Women and The Struggle for Economic Justice in St. Louis."

...

<https://newschannel20.com/news/local/award-winning-author-speaks-at-uis-for-womens-history-month>

3 – Hail to Alma Mater on new campus license plate

Hey UI4EVER or ILLINI1 fans, it's time to swap out your University of Illinois license plate.

The Illinois Secretary of State's office is unveiling a new collegiate plate today for the UI's flagship campus, to bring the design in line with the school's updated logo.

The new specialty plate features the "Block I" logo with an image of the Alma Mater sculpture in the background.

The old plate bore the former "Column I" logo that was replaced last year with the block I already used by Illinois athletics, to unify the university's branding.

All 6,620 UI license plate owners will be sent updated plates and a new sticker for free. Other motorists can order the new plates starting today.

Chancellor Robert J. Jones received the first copy: the number "1," which is always reserved for the chancellor.

Illinois drivers may choose from 20 different collegiate plates featuring public and private schools, from Augustana College to all three UI campuses to private schools like Northwestern and the University of Chicago.

...

<http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2019-03-26/hail-alma-mater-new-campus-license-plate.html>

4 – (Teacher) Testing 1, 2, 3...

Illinois lawmakers are considering a variety of bills that would change the requirements to earn a teaching certificate.

Right now, to become a licensed teacher in Illinois, you have to pass at least three tests.

The first one is called "basic skills," and you have to pass that before your college will even allow you to take education courses. Later, there's a content test for your chosen subject area. And finally,

there's a test called the edTPA, which involves making a video during your one semester of student teaching.

Critics point to these requirements as one big reason that 85 percent of superintendents say they have a teacher shortage. And that shortage is compounded by a lack of diversity. More than 80 percent of Illinois teachers white, while fewer than half of students are white.

...

At the University of Illinois Chicago, Catherine Main helps current preschool teachers earn state licenses. Her students all have a GPA of at least 3.0, and an average of 14 years experience. One-third already hold a masters degree. But they still can't get certified as preschool teachers.

...

<http://www.nprillinois.org/post/teacher-testing-1-2-3#stream/0>

5 – Ice rink not solid part of development plan, yet

The Yards Project is happening, but the question is, will it have a hockey rink?

The \$200 million project was presented in 2017. The 11-acres surrounding Illinois Terminal is the site MTD and a private developer are going to build on, but original plans might have to be changed a bit. The original plans included a hockey rink, but right now, it's unclear if it will happen or not. The plans include a hotel, conference center and commercial space. The developer wanted to include the rink.

What will determine whether or not it's built is if the UI starts a hockey team. The UI has done studies to see how people in the area would respond to a team.

University officials say they're still discussing the topic.

...

<https://www.wcia.com/news/local-news/ice-rink-not-solid-part-of-development-plan-yet/1876517856>

6 – Startup Matching Foreign Med Students With U.S. Rotations Raises \$2.2M

A Chicago startup with ties to the University of Chicago that provides international medical students and graduates with clinical training at U.S. healthcare systems just raised a new round of funding.

AMOpportunities announced Monday that it has raised \$2.2 million from investors, such as OCA Ventures, HealthX Ventures, Wildcat and M25 Group. The University of Chicago also invested.

...

Participating in rotation programs in the U.S. is required before foreign-educated doctors can practice in the U.S.

"To thrive, the American healthcare system needs doctors from all over the world," Swinsky said in a statement. "Without these international trainees, the U.S. will experience a devastating physician shortage. We need these international physicians to ensure our healthcare system survives. Diversity and immigration will only make our country stronger."

AMOpportunities, which won the 2017 University of Chicago New Venture Challenge, has hosted more than 2,500 visitors across over 200 clinical sites in the U.S. since launching. The startup now has affiliations and partnerships with health systems, such as the University of Illinois Chicago, University of Miami and Saint Anthony Hospital.

...

<https://www.americaninno.com/chicago/funding-chicago/startup-matching-foreign-med-students-with-u-s-rotations-raises-2-2m/>

7 – Rejected by your dream college? Spoiler: There are other paths to success and happiness.

Kelley Kitley grew up in Chicago yearning for a life on the stage, and spent years honing her talent through voice lessons, private coaching and loads of school and community productions.

So when the time came for her to apply to college, one school topped the list: New York University, a few subway stops from the grand theaters of Broadway. There, she figured, she would study with some of the country's great teachers before starting her career on the boards.

But that's not how things worked out. The school didn't just reject her — it didn't even allow her to audition.

"I was devastated," Kitley recently recalled. "It changed my whole trajectory in life."

College admittance season, the time of year when high school seniors learn if they've gotten into the schools on which they've pinned their hopes, is winding down. For many, the news has been bad. The country's most selective colleges have acceptance rates around 5 percent, and many state universities, once viewed by some as fallbacks, are getting pickier too: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for example, rejects about 2 out of 5 applicants.

...

Kitley, for example, enrolled at a Minnesota liberal arts school after she was rejected by NYU, but after an unfulfilling freshman year, she volunteered as a bilingual tutor in San Jose, Calif. There, she kindled an interest in service and returned to her hometown to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work.

...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-dream-school-rejection-20190321-story.html>

8 – Illinois sues feds over Medicaid repayment order

The state of Illinois sued the federal government to reverse an order requiring repayment of about \$145 million in long-ago reimbursements to two Chicago safety-net hospitals.

The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in 2016 required the Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services to repay the federal government \$140 million in reimbursements to the University of Illinois Hospital and \$4.5 million for payments to Mount Sinai Hospital, made between July 1996 and June 2000, according to the complaint.

During the four-year period in question, Illinois made about \$338 million in payments to U of I Hospital and about \$39 million to Mount Sinai. Such hospitals, also called disproportionate-share hospitals, receive additional payments to help cover the cost of serving high numbers of poor and uninsured patients.

CMS' 2016 order followed a 2004 audit by the Office of Inspector General within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Illinois appealed the order, but it was upheld in April 2018 by the Departmental Appeals Board, which said in its decision: "The process that Illinois used to calculate and apply the hospital-specific (disproportionate share hospital payment) limits did not follow the standards and methodologies in Illinois' Medicaid State plan."

...

<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/health-care/illinois-sues-feds-over-medicaid-repayment-order>

9 – Hank Bounds to Step Down as President of U. of Nebraska System

The president of the University of Nebraska system, who was embroiled a few years ago in a free-speech controversy that built tensions among state lawmakers, university administrators, and faculty members, will step down this summer, according to a letter posted Monday on the system's website. In the letter, Hank M. Bounds did not say whether that controversy, which resulted in a graduate student's being permanently removed from teaching, had influenced his decision to leave the post he has held for almost four years.

It appeared more likely that the long hours of the job and the stresses of dealing with three state budget cuts during his presidency were bigger factors. Bounds wrote that the job, while rewarding, had become "personally demanding."

...

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Hank-Bounds-to-Step-Down-as/245974>

10 – Duke University to Pay \$112.5 Million to Settle Claims of Research Misconduct

Duke University will pay \$112.5 million to the federal government to settle allegations that researchers submitted applications and reports containing falsified data to win more than two dozen grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Justice Department said on Monday.

"Taxpayers expect and deserve that federal grant dollars will be used efficiently and honestly," Matthew G.T. Martin, United States attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, said in a statement. "May this serve as a lesson that the use of false or fabricated data in grant applications or

reports is completely unacceptable.”

The allegations were initially made in a whistle-blower lawsuit brought by Joseph Thomas, a research analyst who worked in Duke's pulmonary division. He claimed that another researcher, Erin Potts-Kant, had fabricated data linked to as much as \$200 million in federal research grants.

Mr. Thomas filed the lawsuit under the False Claims Act, a federal law that allows individuals to sue on behalf of the government. Under the law, the plaintiff may receive a portion of the damages. Mr. Thomas is to receive more than \$33 million from the settlement.

...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/25/science/duke-settlement-research.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Michael Amiridis on Instagram: <http://chancellor.uic.edu/instagram-feed/>

Robert Jones on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/illinichancellor/>

Susan Koch's Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/ChancellorKoch>

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Subject: Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us'
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 5:50:23 PM

From Discover on Google <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-university-of-illinois-chicago-graduate-assistants-strike-20190319-story,amp.html>

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

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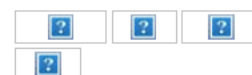
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UIC FEATURED

Chicago's new mayor will be a black woman. Can she bridge the city's divides?

Daily Chronicle - March 19, 2019

stock was abandoned, according to a 2017 study by the *University of Illinois at Chicago's* Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.



Prescription Drugs That Can Cause Depression

Newsmax - March 19, 2019

and anxiety can cause depression. A study conducted by the *University of Illinois at Chicago* and published in the Journal of the American



Materials Could Delay Frost up to 300 Times Longer Than Existing Anti-Icing Coatings - Science and Technology Research News

Science and Technology Research News - March 19, 2019

frequent reapplication," said Rukmava Chatterjee, a doctoral *student* in the *UIC College* of Engineering and the first author of the paper.



Teaching assistants go on strike at University of Illinois at Chicago: 'We have to fight for the school to care about us'

Chicago Tribune - March 19, 2019

Graduate student employees at *University of Illinois at Chicago* went on strike Tuesday after more than a year of contract negotiations



UIC teaching assistants to go on strike

Chicago Sun-Times - March 19, 2019

More than 1,500 teaching assistants and graduate assistants at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* planned to go on strike Tuesday. The



UIC graduate workers begin strike Tuesday

WGN -TV - March 19, 2019

to watch this video CHICAGO -- Graduate workers at the *University of Illinois Chicago* plan to walk out on strike Tuesday. The workers have

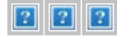


UIC Graduate Teachers To Strike Tuesday Morning

CBS Chicago - March 19, 2019

university fees and appointment policies. The *UIC* Graduate Employees Organization represents more than

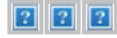
1,500 teaching and graduate **students**.



UIC Grad Workers Go On Indefinite Strike

WCIU, The U - March 19, 2019

UIC graduate workers and assistants reach no deal with the **university** administration on a new labor contract. They've been trying to



UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial

Telemundo Chicago - March 19, 2019

UIC: empleados de la universidad se van a huelga por aumento salarial



Code Blue Celebrates 30 Years of Safety And Security

MassTransitmag.com - March 19, 2019

communication solutions. Code Blue was founded when the **University of Illinois** at **Chicago** selected our new signature design from several



Niles hosts Illinois author today about drug addiction

Vindy.com - March 19, 2019

who is also professor of clinical pediatrics at the **University of Illinois** College of Medicine in **Chicago** and author of the book The Mystery



'Hip-Hop Poet' Kevin Coval Discusses Work April 9 at COD

Illinois Patch.com - March 19, 2019

festival in Chicago, Coval teaches hip-hop aesthetics at The **University of Illinois-Chicago**. He is the author and editor more than a dozen



New Edgewater Cafe's Owners Plan to Tackle Chicago Youth Unemployment

Eater Chicago - March 18, 2019

at a rate of 70 percent, according to research from the **University of Illinois** at **Chicago**, and a whopping \$9.5 billion in Illinois tax



EXPERTS QUOTED

Long-Term Use of Hormone Therapy Linked to Increased Alzheimer's Risk - Today's Geriatric Medicine

Today's Geriatric Medicine - March 19, 2019

Hospital in Boston, and Pauline Maki, PhD, of the **University of Illinois** at **Chicago**, query whether the findings should change the view that



Ald. Roderick Sawyer Vows To Make His Case To Voters After Being Forced Into Runoff By Challenger In 6th Ward

Block Club Chicago - March 19, 2019

to an analysis of divided City Council votes from the **University of Illinois Chicago** Political Science professor and former 44th Ward Ald.



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

ER Doctor Killed In Mercy Hospital Shooting Honored With Scholarship Fund

Vibe - March 19, 2019

a first-year medical student in the Urban Health Program at the **University of Illinois**, The **Chicago** Sun-Times reports. O'Neal's former



Scholarship named for physician killed in Chicago hospital shooting

Becker's Hospital Review - March 18, 2019

Several *alumni* of the *UIC College* of Medicine in *Chicago* have raised funds to create a scholarship fund to honor Tamara O'Neal, MD, the



UIC Local Spotlight: An Interview with M2 Cafe

Spoon University - March 19, 2019

get that stuff anywhere else when they work nearby. We especially get a lot of *UIC students*, to whom we do give a 10% discount. I think they



BROADCAST

FOX 32 News at Nine

WFLD-CHI (FOX) - March 19, 2019

>>>...At UIC for victims of the New Zealand mosque attacks.>>>



WGN-AM (Radio) at March 19th 2019 12:30 AM

WGN-AM (Radio) - March 19, 2019

Striking workers will be forming picket lines later this morning outside several buildings at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus...>>>



NEWS RELEASES

UIC symposium looks at the arts, politics of architecture

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019



UIC student honored with national civic fellowship

UIC Press Releases - March 19, 2019



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UIC FEATURED

Five high school seniors at Butler College Prep receive full ride to UIC

Chicago Sun-Times - March 19, 2019

Prep student received a surprise full-ride scholarship to the *University of Illinois at Chicago* as part of a program to bolster African-



Butler College Prep Kids Get Scholarship Surprise

CBS Chicago - March 19, 2019

it," said Alfred Tatum, Dean of the *College of Education, UIC*. "That's my dream growing up," said *student* Teon Nesbitt. "Somehow, some way,



High schoolers surprised with UIC scholarships aimed at addressing lack of black male teachers – Chicago Tribune

Black News and Information - March 19, 2019

a recent graduate of a Far South Side charter school are awarded scholarships to study education at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* ...



University Of Illinois At Chicago Grad Students Strike Over Wages And Fees

WBEZ 91.5 FM Chicago - March 19, 2019

About 1,600 teaching and graduate assistants at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* who say they struggle to live on the university's



Grad Assistants Strike at U Illinois-Chicago

Inside Higher Ed - March 20, 2019

Graduate student assistants at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* went on strike Tuesday over stalled contract negotiations. "Despite



Mitigating impact of rising seas, storms along California's coast

Homeland Security News Wire - March 20, 2019

the USGS, Coastal Carolina University, Deltares, the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, and Point Blue Conservation Science collaborated on



University of Illinois at Chicago Missed Warning Signs of Research Going Awry, Letters Show

ProPublica - March 20, 2019

and the Chicago Sun-Times. For a year, the *University of Illinois at Chicago* has downplayed its

shortcomings in overseeing the work of a



Records: UIC missed warning signs on child psychiatrist's research going awry

Chicago Sun-Times - March 20, 2019

[://chicago.suntimes.com/news/mani-pavuluri-child-psychiatrist-uic-university-illinois-chicago-research-lapses/screen-shot-2019-03-20-at-11-](http://chicago.suntimes.com/news/mani-pavuluri-child-psychiatrist-uic-university-illinois-chicago-research-lapses/screen-shot-2019-03-20-at-11-)



Materials Could Delay Frost Up to 300 Times Longer Than Existing Anti-Icing Coatings

Electronic Component News - March 20, 2019

frequent reapplication," said Rukmava Chatterjee, a doctoral **student** in the **UIC College** of Engineering and the first author of the paper.



Jon Chambers: The Practical Applications of Networks to the Body

The Visualist - March 20, 2019

) and video at The School of the Art Institute of **Chicago, University of Illinois** at **Chicago** and Northwestern University. He has shown work



EXPERTS QUOTED

Simple New Urine Test for Preeclampsia Could Save Many Lives

Medscape - March 20, 2019

the CRD test," senior author Irina Buhimschi, MD, of the **University of Illinois** at **Chicago** College of Medicine, told Medscape Medical News.



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

Newmark : Knight Frank Welcomes Jimena Sayavedra As an Associate

Market Screener - March 20, 2019

and Policy with a specialization in Economic Development from the **University of Illinois** at **Chicago** and her bachelor's degree in Psychology



SPORTS

Redbirds oust UIC Flames, 4-0 in mid-week matchup

Vidette Online - March 19, 2019

, the Redbirds bounced back early Tuesday evening against the **University of Illinois-Chicago Flames** at Duffy Bass Field. It was as early as



BROADCAST

Good Day Chicago

WFLD-CHI (FOX) - March 20, 2019

It is day two of a strike at UIC.



The Jam

WCIU The U - March 20, 2019

UIC graduate workers are on day two of their strike...>>>



ABC 7 Eyewitness News @ 4:30A

WLS-CHI (ABC) - March 20, 2019

>>>This is day two of the strike by assistants at UIC.>>>



NBC 5 Today@4am

WMAQ-CHI (NBC) - March 20, 2019

Support for graduate student workers on strike right now at UIC will grow today>>>



NEWS RELEASES

UIC researchers find hidden proteins in bacteria

UIC Press Releases - March 20, 2019



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UIC FEATURED

On the eve getting a new mayor, a visit with the first Mayor Daley, his artifacts at UIC, and the Chicago of his time

Chicago Tribune - April 1, 2019

Dan Harper and Peggy Glowacki in the Richard J. Daley Library at *University of Illinois at Chicago*. By Tuesday's end, there will be a new



UIC researchers find hidden proteins in bacteria

National Science Foundation - April 2, 2019

March 20, 2019 Scientists at the *University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)* have developed a way to identify the beginning of every gene --



The Rising Black Left Movement Behind Chicago's Historic Elections

The Nation - April 1, 2019

Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and History at the *University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)*, where she directs the campus-wide Social



White people's eating habits produce most greenhouse gases

Democratic Underground - April 1, 2019

effects," said Joe Bozeman, a student in the *University of Illinois at Chicago* Institute for Environmental Science and Policy and first



Strike by UIC teaching assistants enters third week

WGN -TV - April 1, 2019

— A strike by graduate and teaching assistants at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* has entered its third week. The Graduate Employees'



EXPERTS QUOTED

Chicago to elect first black female mayor

Breitbart - April 2, 2019

Chicago history," Evan McKenzie, political science professor at the *University of Illinois in Chicago*, told AFP. "Chicago voters seem to be



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

Chicago woman's body found in Michigan months after drowning

Chicago Sun-Times - April 1, 2019

mother said Herrera was enrolled in a masters program at the *University of Illinois* at *Chicago*. She said Herrera "lived by what she believed



SPORTS

Snappers announce 2019 roster

Beloit Daily News - April 2, 2019

in Beloit is Charlie Cerny, a seventh-round selection from the *University of Illinois-Chicago*. Cerny lists his hometown as Bloomington, ill.



ISU's Mullins joins brother's staff at Southern Illinois

Pantagraph.com - April 1, 2019

in 2018, and Dikembe Dixon, a 6-foot-7 forward at *UIC* who was the *Horizon* League freshman of the year in 2016 after scoring a league-record



BROADCAST

WBBM-AM (Radio) at April 1st 2019 8:10 PM

WBBM-AM (Radio) - April 2, 2019

Graduate students walking the picket line at the University of Illinois at Chicago got some morale and musical support this afternoon.>>>



WGN Evening News

WGN - April 2, 2019

>>>...the lesson in labor disputes continue to play out at the University of Illinois at Chicago...>>>



WBEZ-FM (Radio) at April 1st 2019 5:05 PM

WBEZ-FM (Radio) - April 2, 2019

Striking members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra joined graduate student workers at the University of Illinois at Chicago as they entered a third week of a walkout.>>>



WBEZ-FM (Radio) at April 1st 2019 3:53 PM

WBEZ-FM (Radio) - April 2, 2019

>>>Barbara Ransby teaches history at the University of Illinois at Chicago...>>>



WGN-AM (Radio) at April 1st 2019 4:00 PM

WGN-AM (Radio) - April 2, 2019

The strike by graduate teaching assistants at the University of Illinois at Chicago now entering its third week...>>>



NEWS RELEASES

Building innovative cancer prevention programs in Chicago

UIC Press Releases - April 2, 2019





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UIC FEATURED

UIC Researchers Aim to Detect Brain Disease Earlier with \$1.4M Grant

WTTW 11 - April 4, 2019

(SharonMcCutcheon / Pixabay) Researchers at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* are developing imaging techniques that will allow them to



Celebs Are Following Alternate Day Fasting — But Does It Work?

SPY - April 4, 2019

, lead author on the study and professor of nutrition at the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, stated that "instead of being better than



Progress in UIC grad, teaching assistant talks; faculty plan vote to OK strike

Chicago Sun-Times - April 4, 2019

1,500 striking teaching assistants and graduate assistants at the *University of Illinois Chicago* says the results of a negotiating session



Hundreds of classes canceled at UIC in first week of ongoing strike by teaching assistants

Chicago Tribune - April 4, 2019

Hundreds of classes were canceled at *University of Illinois at Chicago* in the week after graduate and teaching assistants went on strike, a



The Machine Is Dead

Chicago Magazine - April 3, 2019

in Chicago. One of Lightfoot's earliest supporters was *University of Illinois-Chicago* professor Dick Simpson, a reform alderman in 1970s



Faculty union begins picket duty sign-ups

The Daily Targum - April 3, 2019

widely in the online academic strike movement, namely at *University of Illinois at Chicago* and the Community College of Philadelphia, both



Milwaukee, Local Hospitals Partner To Combat Gun Violence

Wisconsin Public Radio - April 4, 2019

in the late 1990s by a public health professor at the *University of Illinois-Chicago*. The program has since gained national attention and



EXPERTS QUOTED

With Lori Lightfoot victory, Chicago's LGBTQ community hopes to be 'more visible and more relevant'

Chicago Tribune - April 3, 2019

"Turner, director of the Gender and Sexuality Center at the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, said in an emailed response to questions."



The Machine Is Dead

Chicago Magazine - April 3, 2019

in Chicago. One of Lightfoot's earliest supporters was *University of Illinois-Chicago* professor Dick Simpson, a reform alderman in 1970s



Chicago's Lincoln Yards development under scrutiny

Nashville Public Radio - April 3, 2019

Weber, an urban planning and policy professor at the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, said the city's minority contracting program has a



In Britain, No Gateway Effect Seen for Vaping to Smoking

Medpage Today - April 3, 2019

more likely to take up smoking. A tobacco researcher at the *University of Illinois at Chicago*, Jonathan Klein, MD, told MedPage Today that



The Spin: Lightfoot's path forward | Why Preckwinkle lost | Undecided council races

Chicago Tribune - April 3, 2019

that's what 74 percent means," Chris Mooney, a *University of Illinois at Chicago* political science professor, said, referring to the current



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

Women in Public Affairs to Know: Prashanthi Rao Raman

JD Supra - April 4, 2019

Health degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law and *University of Illinois at Chicago*. Prashanthi has always had a passion for government



Hanmi Financial : Appoints Bonita I. Lee as its Chief Executive Officer

Market Screener - April 4, 2019

April 2005. Ms. Lee is a graduate of the *University of Illinois, Chicago*. About Hanmi Financial Corporation Headquartered in Los Angeles,



KTGY names Demetrios Stavrianos executive director, architecture

REJournals.com - April 3, 2019

a bachelor of architecture degree in architectural design from the *University of Illinois at Chicago*. "Demetrios has a reputation as an



SPORTS

On-time start is a blessing for SSC baseball

HometownSource.com [ECM Publishers] - April 4, 2019

and a walk. *University of Illinois at Chicago* commit Adam Weed is rehabbing from a torn knee ligament

suffered during **football** season last



BROADCAST

WEAA-FM (Radio) at April 4th 2019 5:41 AM

WEAA-FM (Radio) - April 4, 2019

>>>Barbara Ransby is Professor of History; Gender and Women's Studies; and African American Studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago.



WBEZ-FM (Radio) at April 3rd 2019 4:55 PM

WBEZ-FM (Radio) - April 4, 2019

>>>...Rachel Weber is an urban planning and policy professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago...>>>



ABC 7 Eyewitness News @ 5P

WLS-CHI (ABC) - April 4, 2019

The body of a woman who went missing in Lake Michigan in December has been recovered...The 24-year-old was a grad student at UIC.



NEWS RELEASES

Detecting eye and brain disease earlier

UIC Press Releases - April 3, 2019



Building innovative cancer prevention programs in Chicago

UIC Press Releases - April 2, 2019



Meltwater - 225 Bush St Suite 1000, San Francisco, California 94104 USA

To unsubscribe from this newsletter [Click Here](#)

From: Public and Government Affairs
To: [Bills-Windt, Caryn A](#)
Subject: UIC Daily Clips 4-5-19
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 1:54:51 PM



MEDIA COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

April 5, 2019

UIC Featured	Experts Quoted	Alumni / Students	Sports	Broadcast	News Releases
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Today 33 news outlets ran stories with headlines similar to "UIC, graduate workers reach tentative deal, but strike continues."

[News Center](#)

[NOTE: Video content in Broadcast section below is copyrighted material and restricted to internal use within the University of Illinois at Chicago. Downloading or posting to websites, or sharing links outside of UIC, is prohibited.]

[UIC Science Blog](#)

[Contact Us](#)

UIC FEATURED

UIC, graduate workers reach tentative deal, but strike continues

ABC7Chicago.com - April 5, 2019

: Share Tweet Email EMBED <>More Videos The *University of Illinois at Chicago* and striking graduate workers have reached a tentative deal



UIC, teaching assistants reach tentative contract agreement, but strike still on

Chicago Tribune - April 5, 2019

Teaching and graduate assistants at *University of Illinois at Chicago* have reached a tentative agreement with administration for a new



Deal reached with U of Illinois-Chicago; strike continues

WGN -TV - April 5, 2019

— A union representing graduate student employees at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* says they're staying on strike despite reaching a



Finalists revealed for new arts center at University of Illinois at Chicago

The Architect's Newspaper - April 5, 2019

Early this year, the *University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)* announced a three-firm shortlist to design a new "Center for the Arts" for the



Identity Rules: A Report from Reddening Chicago

CounterPunch - April 5, 2019

Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement at the *University of Illinois at Chicago* compiled data and constructed maps demonstrating



New Program Combats City's Gun Violence

Urban Milwaukee - April 5, 2019

in the late 1990s by a public health professor at the *University of Illinois-Chicago*. The program has since gained national attention and



EXPERTS QUOTED

Addressing mental health in criminal justice system requires training, systemic changes, visiting professor says

The Badger Herald - April 4, 2019

A visiting social work professor from the *University of Illinois-Chicago* delivered a talk Thursday on the relationship between the criminal



ALUMNI / STUDENTS

To Know Herself presents new work by Tammy Rae Carland and iconic Macon Reed installation

Artdaily.org - April 4, 2019

and participatory projects. Reed completed her MFA at the *University of Illinois* at *Chicago* as a University Fellow in 2013 and received her



Dr Farah Talib, DMD Is Among the Best Cosmetic Dentists around the World

Prsync.com - April 5, 2019

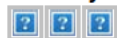
Talib, DMD Dr Farah Talib received her DMD degree from the *University of Illinois* at *Chicago*. Later, she decided to move to Houston. At



Hanmi Appoints Lee as President and CEO

Equipment Finance Advisor - April 5, 2019

Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer from November 2003 to April 2005. Lee is a graduate of the *University of Illinois, Chicago*.



SPORTS

College Insider lawsuit against University of Northern Colorado dropped, but civil litigation still a possibility

Greeley Tribune - April 4, 2019

record-crowd of 3,198 in the championship game against the *University of Illinois* at *Chicago*. Haas said UNC paid \$10,000 to host the



BROADCAST

WBEZ-FM (Radio) at April 5th 2019 6:51 AM

WBEZ-FM (Radio) - April 5, 2019

>>>...Dick Simpson, a political science professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, says calls for more scrutiny of the project must be taken seriously...>>>



WBEZ-FM (Radio) at April 5th 2019 6:05 AM

WBEZ-FM (Radio) - April 5, 2019

>>>...at the University of Illinois at Chicago say it has reached a tentative contract agreement after a nearly three-week strike...>>>



NEWS RELEASES

Detecting eye and brain disease earlier

UIC Press Releases - April 3, 2019



Building innovative cancer prevention programs in Chicago

UIC Press Releases - April 2, 2019





Meltwater - 225 Bush St Suite 1000, San Francisco, California 94104 USA

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From: timwindt
To: [Bills-Windt, Caryn A](#)
Subject: UIC graduate workers reach tentative contract agreement, but strike goes on
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 1:53:39 PM

From Discover on Google <https://chicago.suntimes.com/business/university-illinois-chicago-uic-teaching-graduate-assistants-strike/amp/>

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Chicago Tribune

APR 5, 2019

BREAKING NEWS

University of Illinois at Chicago teaching assistants end 3-week strike, will return to work Monday

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019, 5:07 PM CT

After three weeks, teaching and graduate assistants at the University of Illinois at Chicago have ended their strike after reaching a tentative agreement with the administration for a new contract, union leaders announced Friday afternoon.

[Read the latest](#)

BREAKING NEWS PRESENTED BY

From: Chicago Tribune
To: [Bills-Windt, Caryn A](#)
Subject: UIC teaching assistants end 3-week strike, will return to work Monday
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 5:10:08 PM

Chicago Tribune



APR 5, 2019

BREAKING NEWS

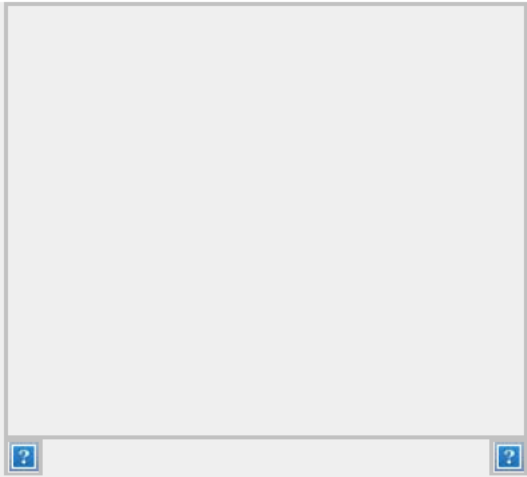
University of Illinois at Chicago teaching assistants end 3-week strike, will return to work Monday

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019, 5:07 PM CT

After three weeks, teaching and graduate assistants at the University of Illinois at Chicago have ended their strike after reaching a tentative agreement with the administration for a new contract, union leaders announced Friday afternoon.

[Read the latest](#)

BREAKING NEWS PRESENTED BY



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ABOUT THIS EMAIL You received this email because you are following the Breaking News newsletter.

From: Staff Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] GEO Strike, March 19
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:59:20 AM

[Read this message online](#)

UIC Official Announcement



Dear Campus Community,

The UIC Graduate Employees Organization, the union representing 1,600 graduate employees in collective bargaining negotiations, has declared an indefinite work stoppage beginning Tuesday, March 19.

The bargaining teams are scheduled to meet again on Friday, March 22.

All members of the university community will be expected to meet for classes as usual. During a strike, the university is committed to

continuing normal operations to the fullest extent possible. Students and parents can be assured that educational objectives will be fulfilled, and grades should not be affected.

The University has participated in 22 negotiating sessions, including five utilizing the services of the federal mediator. We believe that this work stoppage is not in the best interest of the University, or our students. However, the University fully respects the rights of its employees under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act and other applicable law.

GEO members:

- have the right to picket and demonstrate;
- have the right to work, or to strike;
- who choose to strike will not be paid during the strike;
- who choose to work and not strike will continue to be paid.

A mediation session occurred yesterday, and the negotiating teams reached an agreement on appointment terms with both sides stipulating that the university will create a task force to develop guidelines for departments regarding appointments, reappointments and assignments.

Both the University and the union had hoped to make progress on the following critical issues: wages, health care fees, expenses/student fees, and union rights.

Wages

Graduate employees currently receive a minimum salary of \$18,065 for two semesters of twenty hours of work per week, plus the equivalent of \$13,502 in tuition and fee waivers (assuming full-time tuition of 12 credit hours plus for 2 semesters). When you annualize that salary from 9 months to 12 months and equate it to full time at 40 hours per week, plus the value of the tuition waivers, it is akin to a salary of \$62,375 per year.

UIC has offered an 11.5 percent increase in the minimum salary over the three-year period of the next contract (4.1 percent in year one, 3.7 percent in year two, and 3.7 percent in year three of the contract).

The GEO has asked for a more than 24 percent increase over a three-year period (7.9 percent in year one of the contract, 7.7 percent in year two, and 8.6 percent in year three) and additional tuition and fee waivers.

Health care fees

There are approximately 1,200 GEO members enrolled in Campus Care at a cost of \$570 per semester. Next year, the cost will increase to \$673 per semester. Currently, GEO members pay \$295 per semester.

UIC has agreed to cover all increases in the rate that may occur during

the contract period.

The GEO has asked to pay \$220 per semester, with UIC paying the remainder of the fees.

Student fees

Graduate and undergraduate students pay a \$431 per semester general fee that will increase to \$481 next year, following a recommendation by the student fee committee. In addition, graduate and undergraduate international students pay a \$130 per semester international fee to support all services associated with international students.

UIC is dependent on the revenue from the general and international fees and is unable to meet requests to waive those fees for GEO employees.

The GEO has asked for UIC to pay the full amount of these fees.

The University has created a website, geobargaining.uic.edu, to inform our campus community of the status of negotiations and work stoppage, to answer questions relating to a strike, and for documents showing the University's proposals and the union's responses. We encourage everyone to visit the site for the most recent updates.

Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis
Chancellor

Susan Poser
Provost

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

From: Staff Official Announcements
To: OFFICIALX_STAFF@LISTSERV.UIC.EDU
Subject: [OFFICIALX_STAFF] Update on contract negotiations with Graduate Employees Organization
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:42:02 PM

[Read this message online](#)

UIC Official Announcement



Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

We write to give you an update on important developments in our contract negotiations with the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO).

Possible March 19, 2019, Strike

GEO issued a notice indicating that it intends to engage in a strike beginning on Tuesday, March 19, 2019. We continue to bargain in good faith and are doing all that we can do to avoid a strike. However, if a

strike occurs, our primary objective will be to continue normal operations, including minimizing the disruption of instruction, meeting course objectives and ensuring timely grading.

All members of the university community will be expected to meet for classes as usual. If there are interruptions, make-up arrangements must be implemented to ensure that the instructional objectives are delivered.

In the coming days, we will provide you with more information and guidance about how we will continue our operations if the GEO exercises this option.

Two additional bargaining sessions are scheduled over the next few days in an attempt to reach an agreement between the union and the university and avert a strike. Bargaining sessions, with a federal mediator, will be held on Saturday, March 16, and Monday, March 18. Outstanding issues in our negotiations include: wages, health care, student fees, appointment terms and a handful of other issues.

Thank you for your patience and assistance as we continue the negotiation process. If you have any questions, please contact Keino Robinson, Associate Director of HR Labor and Employee Relations at keinor@uic.edu.

We sincerely value the contributions made by our graduate employees to our academic mission. We remain optimistic that we will, together, reach a collective bargaining agreement that is fair and beneficial for all involved.

Sincerely,

Michael Amiridis
Chancellor

Susan Poser
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Robert Barish
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

From: DDDH Send
To: [Tolliver, J. Rex](#)
Subject: GEO Work Hours Documentation for Colleges
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 1:37:00 PM

[Click here to see this online](#)

UIC DDDH Message



The Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) and the University reached a tentative agreement last week on a new three-year labor agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding work missed during the strike.

Below are the key points of the MOU:

1. The University agrees not to retaliate against any graduate assistant due to their participation in the strike.

2. GEO agrees not to retaliate against any graduate assistant for their participation or non-participation in the strike.
3. Teaching Assistants who participated in strike activities during Spring Break shall not be docked any time for that week unless they were scheduled to work.
4. Graduate employees who participated in the strike will be permitted to complete hours that were missed by them during the strike to the extent possible. Graduate employees should consult with their immediate supervisors with regard to assessing what hours may need to be completed and in the scheduling of those hours. Completion hours for teaching assistants may include extra office hours, review sessions or virtual class sessions online. Completion hours for graduate assistants may include the assignment of extra hours of work or assistance on other University projects. Departments shall assign completion hours to graduate employees who participated in the strike equitably, to the extent possible.
5. The University will develop a form for graduate employees who participated in the strike to submit.
6. Graduate employees who participated in the strike shall report and submit the form no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 3, 2019. Any reduction in salary will take place after the forms are submitted and shall not be reflected in April paychecks but shall be reflected in May paychecks.
7. The University will send an email to bargaining unit members attaching this MOU and the form with instructions to report their hours by 5:00 p.m. on May 3, 2019.

A copy of the form which GEO members will be required to submit to their department HR contact by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 3, 2019, is [available online](#) and has been sent to departmental HR contacts. In a separate email, each college will receive a spreadsheet listing the names of all teaching and graduate assistants which will be utilized to enter the information provided by the assistants. Each college must complete the spreadsheet and submit it to me **no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, May 6th. THERE CAN BE NO EXTENSIONS GRANTED REGARDING THIS DEADLINE.** UIC HR will review the spreadsheets on Tuesday, May 7th and must submit the information to University Payroll and Benefits for the May 8th deadline to make any changes to the MN 5 payroll.

Feel free to direct any questions to me or Keino Robinson, Associate Director of Labor and Employee Relations at keinor@uic.edu.



From: DDDH Send
To: [Tolliver, J. Rex](#)
Subject: Graduate Employee's Organization (GEO) possible strike
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 1:31:30 PM

[Click here to see this online](#)

UIC DDDH Message



March 15, 2019

To: Deans, Directors, & Department Heads

Fr: Susan Poser, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Robert Barish, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
Michael Ginsburg, Associate Vice Chancellor,
UIC Human Resources

Re: Graduate Employee's Organization (GEO) possible strike

The Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) has served the University with a Notice of Intent to Strike and is planning a work stoppage to begin on Tuesday, March 19, 2019. It is important that UIC prepare for the possibility of such an event even as we continue to engage in good faith bargaining and put forth our best efforts to reach a fair and equitable contract. Towards that end, mediated negotiations will continue with the GEO this Saturday and Monday in an effort to avert a strike.

To prepare in the event that there is a strike, you should:

- Communicate with your departmental staff so that they can respond to phone call inquiries, etc. regarding the information contained in this memo and the FAQs. All calls from the media should be redirected to Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez in the Office of Public and Government Affairs.
- Do NOT discuss the possibility of a strike with graduate and teaching assistants, as such conversations could be misinterpreted as an improper attempt to intimidate or coerce these employees regarding their exercise of protected rights.
- Review the list of your graduate teaching assistants to evaluate the impact of a strike on the instruction of classes in your unit. The instructor of record for each class is the responsible party for determining how to cover the class and coursework. In most instances, the instructor of record will be a faculty member, but it may be a graduate student in some cases.
- A management guide will be provided to you by Human Resources. This should only be shared with administrative supervisors of teaching and graduate assistants that may choose to strike.

Please also note:

- **All members of the university community** will be expected to meet for classes as usual. If there are interruptions, make-up arrangements must be implemented to assure that the instructional objectives are delivered.
- The Tenure and Non-Tenure faculty are bound by the no-strike provision in their respective union contracts.
- ***Only Teaching Assistants (TA's) and Administrative Graduate Assistants (GA's) who are holding a GEO covered assistantship can strike.*** Although employees in other employee groups may elect not to cross picket lines, the University's normal procedures governing approved absences remain in effect.
- Members of the GEO in covered positions including Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants (TAs and GAs), who participate in the strike during their scheduled work hours will not be paid for time that they did not work. [1] In the event a strike does occur, units will need to identify

TAs and GAs who participated in the strike and did not report to work and notify HR/Payroll. HR/Payroll will manage the process to adjust pay as needed. While we remain hopeful that an agreement can be reached without a strike, should a strike occur, we will forward detailed instructions on how to communicate pay adjustments.

- Information about the items being addressed through the bargaining process can be found online at geobargaining.uic.edu
- Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez, Senior Executive Director, Office of Public Affairs, smcginn@uic.edu and 312-996-2398, will serve as the official spokesperson and shall be the only individual to communicate to the media.

UIC Labor and Employee Relations, and UIC Human Resources stands ready to assist you as needed. However, if you have any questions related to permissible employment actions and communications on this subject please direct those to Keino Robinson, Labor and Employee Relations, UIC Human Resources (keinor@uillinois.edu and 312-996-1232).

[1] As stewards of the university and in accordance with the State Finance Act, UIC cannot pay wages to an employee if services have not been provided. The University is not allowed to continue to pay employees who did not work as a result of the strike. It is the responsibility of supervisors and administrators to cooperate and fulfill these legal obligations. Supervisors and department administrators must document absences during a strike and as appropriate, follow-up with employees who do not submit the Time and Attendance forms that will be provided for this purpose. Should there be any disputes regarding the hours worked during the strike, please contact Keino Robinson, UIC Labor & Employee Relations (keinor@uillinois.edu) for assistance.

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